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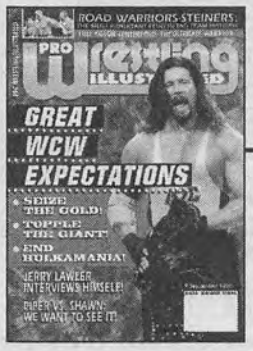

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Jason Ross Lavin

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Kim Branson

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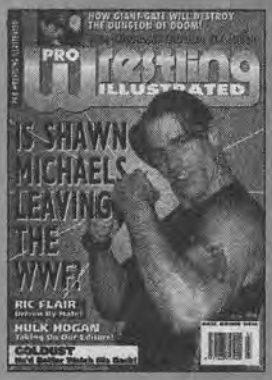
THE ANSWER IS NO!



It is obvious that some members of Shawn Michaels' clique were in an uproar after seeing the headline "Is Shawn Michaels Leaving The WWF?" emblazoned across the cover of our July 1996 issue. The response we received to the story was overwhelming. Shawn's fans were upset at the mere thought of his leaving the WWF, although most figured he wasn't going anywhere.

"Shawn has worked all his career to get where he is," wrote Elaine Herman of Vail, Colorado. "He'd be killing his career if he left now."

"I think Shawn feels that as long as he is WWF World champ, he will be looked at as the top wrestler in the sport," said "*PWI* Hotline" caller Melanie Tyler of Flint, Michigan. "If he were to leave now, he'd might be forced to start near the bottom again."

However, not everybody believed that there is no chance "The Heartbreak Kid" will leave.

"Shawn may be looked upon as the future of the WWF," wrote Brian Ollen of Abilene, Texas, "but I think anyone would leave for the right price."

REY OF HOPE

I was very happy to see that the greatest aerial wrestler in the sport today, Rey Misterio Jr., was thought of so highly in the 1996 "*PWI* Poll" (June 1996)! When Misterio wrestles, you are literally afraid to blink. He's *that* good. Misterio makes slow-motion look like fast-forward! I'll take one Misterio vs. Psicosis match over a whole federation full of "big boys" any proverbial day of the week and twice on Sunday!

If you're sick and tired of hulking, bulking giants who lumber about making the best of their two-move repertoires ad nauseam, then the sooner you catch some "Reys" the better!

R.J. DAYBROOK
Reno, NV

Watching Rey Misterio Jr. execute a top-rope "Frankensteiner" on someone like Mikey Whipwreck is quite exciting. Reader R.J. Daybrook would rather watch Misterio than any of wrestling's lumbering giants.

PERTURBED BY PAY-PER-VIEW

I am disappointed with the WWF for relegating an important title match to the "Free For All" program before WrestleMania XII. I realize that it is traditional to have an extra match or two just before the pay-per-view begins, but it should never be an important World title match such as the final match of the tournament to fill the vacant WWF World tag team title. Many fans like me paid $30 to get the pay-per-view, expecting to see two title matches. But during the pay-per-view, only highlights of the Bodydonnas-Godwinns match were shown.

I feel the WWF should have done a better job of telling fans that that match would be on *before* WrestleMania. What is even more disappointing is that not only did I not see the tag team title match, but I also missed seeing Sunny in a skimpy skirt.

ERIC THORNTON
Kent, WA

WRESTLEMANIA AFTERTHOUGHTS

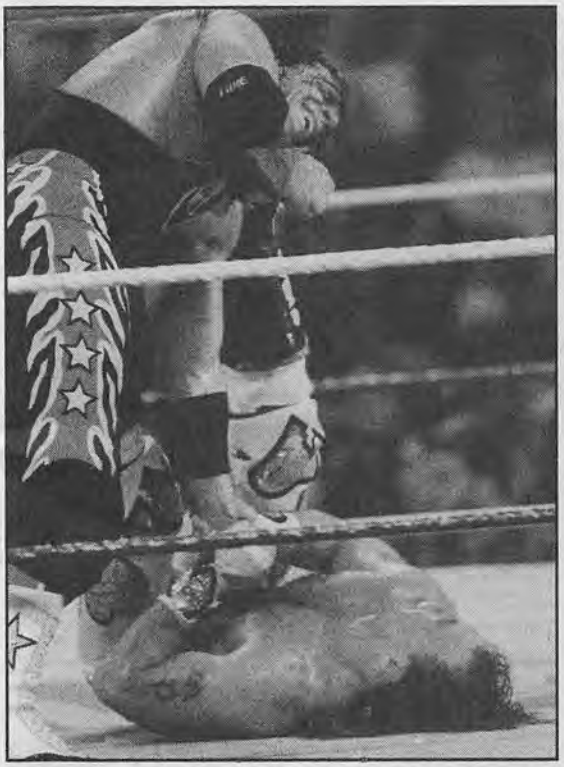
Well, I've just finished watching WrestleMania XII, and one question comes to mind: Could WWF officials have pandered to Shawn Michaels any more than they did? I believe that a lot of people inside the WWF wanted Michaels to win the match, probably with the hopes that his "Boy Toy" image would sell more tickets.

There are several facts that support my opinion. First, the match was made an "Iron Man" match, which favored the younger Michaels. During the match, Jose Lothario was allowed to help Michaels to his feet after Hart knocked him to the floor. Michaels should have been disqualified for outside interference. The referee was counting so slow that Bret finally gave up waiting and pushed Michaels back into the ring. Finally, when the time-limit expired, Gorilla Monsoon ordered the match to continue, even

though Hart repeatedly asked why. I think if a sudden-death stipulation was in the contract, Bret would not have left the ring in the first place.

There's no doubt that Michaels has a more outgoing personality than Hart. After reviewing the situation, though, I feel Bret Hart has every right to feel cheated.

ROY BARNETT
St. Clair, MI



Bret Hart got shafted in his "Iron Man" match with Shawn Michaels, says reader Roy Barnett. He feels Michaels deserved to lose at least one fall by countout or disqualification.

THE RIDE IS OVER

I realize that Ric Flair is probably the greatest NWA/WCW wrestler in history, but I think his legendary status is put in jeopardy every time he steps into the ring now. Flair is just a fraction of his former great self today. He is losing concentration and many matches to guys he should be able to defeat in less than five minutes. I recently saw him wrestle Hacksaw Dug-

Ric Flair gets knocked to the mat by Lex Luger. Reader Laura Leighton is a fan of the "Nature Boy," but she thinks he has been embarrassing himself in the ring lately.

gan, and I was ashamed to say I was a Flair fan.

I think it is time for the great "Nature Boy" to retire and move on to the next stage of his life. I hate to say it, but I think it is time to shut down "Space Mountain" before the ride falls apart.

LAURA LEIGHTON
State College, PA

(Continued on page 54)

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI

The cover of our September 1986 issue featured some great action photos from the spectacular summer supercards of that year. Included were photos of Road Warrior Animal vs. Magnum T.A. from the Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup, AWA World champ Stan Hansen vs. Nick Bockwinkel from WrestleRock '86, and King Kong Bundy vs. WWF World champ Hulk Hogan from WrestleMania II.

Elsewhere in the magazine: This special issue featured in-depth coverage of all the 1986 summer supercards from the WWF, NWA, AWA, and World Class, including a 12-page full-color section that showcased the hottest supercard action ... In "Press Conference," NWA manager Paul Jones discussed his plans to run Jimmy Valiant out of wrestling ... Stan Hansen was considered one of the toughest men in wrestling back in 1986. In fact, back then, *PWI* talked to some who felt the then-AWA World champ was practically invincible.

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RINGSIDE

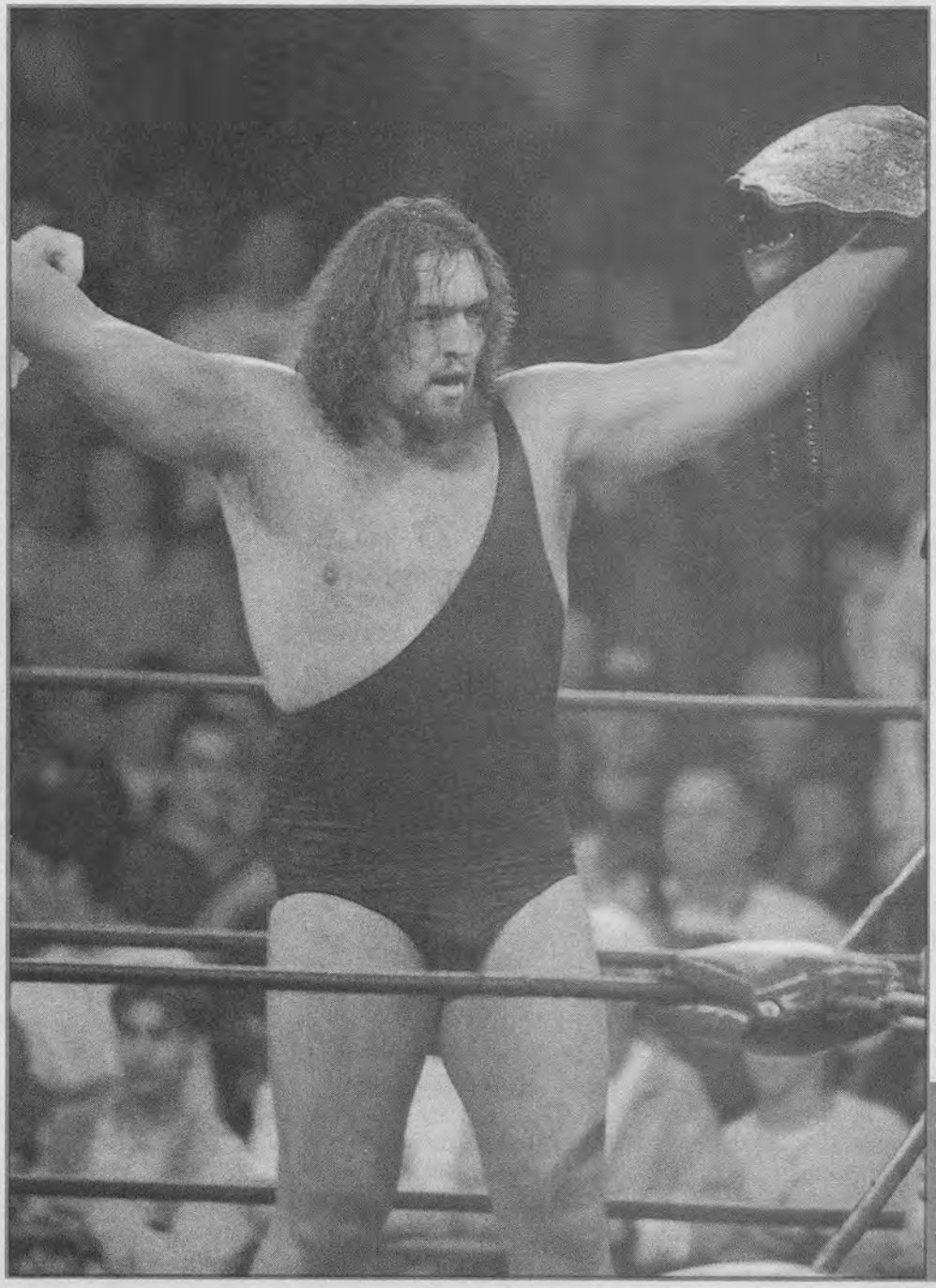
With Bill Apter

ON THE SAME night that **The Giant** and **Ric Flair** teamed against **Lex Luger** and **Sting**, The Giant defeated Flair to win the WCW World title. It was a strange and confusing night, but here's how the events of April 22 in Albany, Georgia, unfolded:

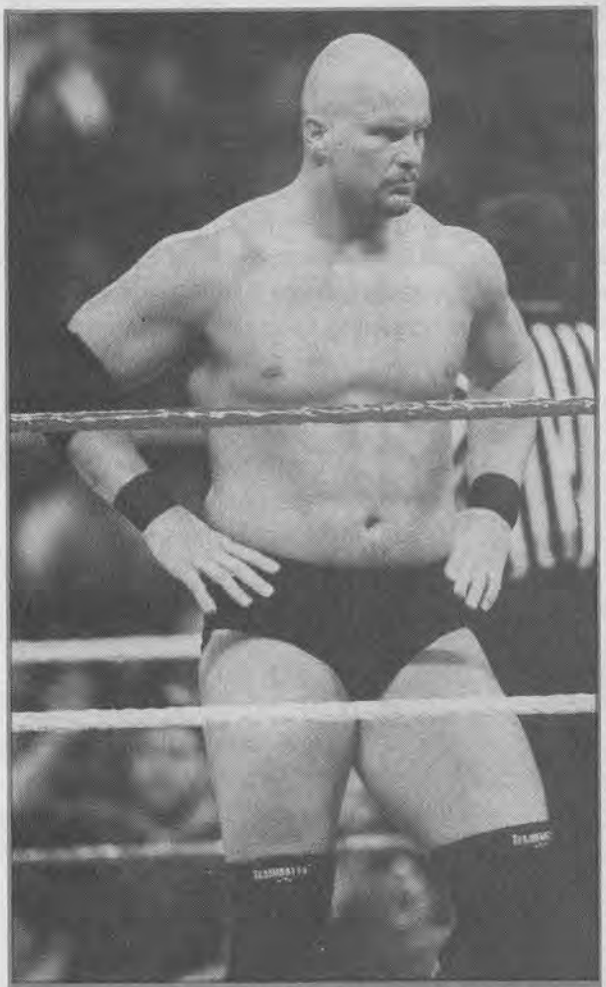
The tag team match stipulated that if Luger was pinned by either The Giant or Flair, the person who pinned him would win Luger's TV belt, but not the tag team title. If Sting was pinned, the tag team belts would go over to Flair and The Giant. And if Flair was pinned, he would lose his World belt to the man who pinned him.

Well, no titles changed hands in the tag team match, because Flair and The Giant were disqualified when Flair took a cup of hot coffee from **Woman** and tried to throw it at Sting and Luger. Flair missed and hit The Giant in the eyes by mistake. Flair tried to apologize, but The Giant went berserk and challenged him. The "Nature Boy" nervously accepted, and later in the evening, Giant beat Flair by pinfall after felling him with a chokeslam.

All this is very good news for Sting, because the series of matches he already had scheduled against The Giant all turned into World title bouts.



The Giant is the first rookie to ever win a world title. Though he's not exactly a clear-cut fan favorite, he did demand and receive a match with Ric Flair on April 22. He beat him for the World belt with a chokeslam.



"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin was not particularly happy during the WWF's most recent tour of Germany. He nearly beat Shawn Michaels for the World title and claims "The Heartbreak Kid" had to cheat to beat him.

Brian Pillman is out of action after being injured in an automobile accident just outside his hometown of Cincinnati on April 15. Pillman broke his left ankle and suffered extensive injuries to his jaw and face. He had some minor plastic surgery done a week after the accident, and if all goes well in his recovery, he could be back in the ring by late-July.

"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin may be **Ted DiBiase's** handpicked Million-Dollar champion, but he's still not the WWF champion. Austin lost to WWF champ **Shawn Michaels** in Germany several times this spring, but he did put up some great battles. "I don't want to sound like a crybaby," Austin said, "but when a champion bends the rules and gets away with stuff like holding your trunks during a pin attempt, well, something is very wrong!"

Wilhelm Streuman, one of our correspondents in Germany, saw the match that Austin was complaining about (it took place in Bayreuth) and said Austin has no reason to be upset. "Mr. Austin was maybe the only person in the arena who felt Mr. Michaels won unfairly," he said. "Shawn Michaels used a superkick and then got the pin. It was a clean win."

Answer to reader **Fred Grubman**: No, Steve Austin did not pattern his hairdo after mine!

Goldust also had a lousy time during the WWF's tour of Germany. He seriously injured his left knee during a match against **Razor Ramon**. According to his doctors, he suffered damage to the medial collateral ligament and medial miniscus cartilage, in addition to a partially torn hamstring and a partially torn calf muscle. Goldust will not require surgery, but he must undergo physical therapy.

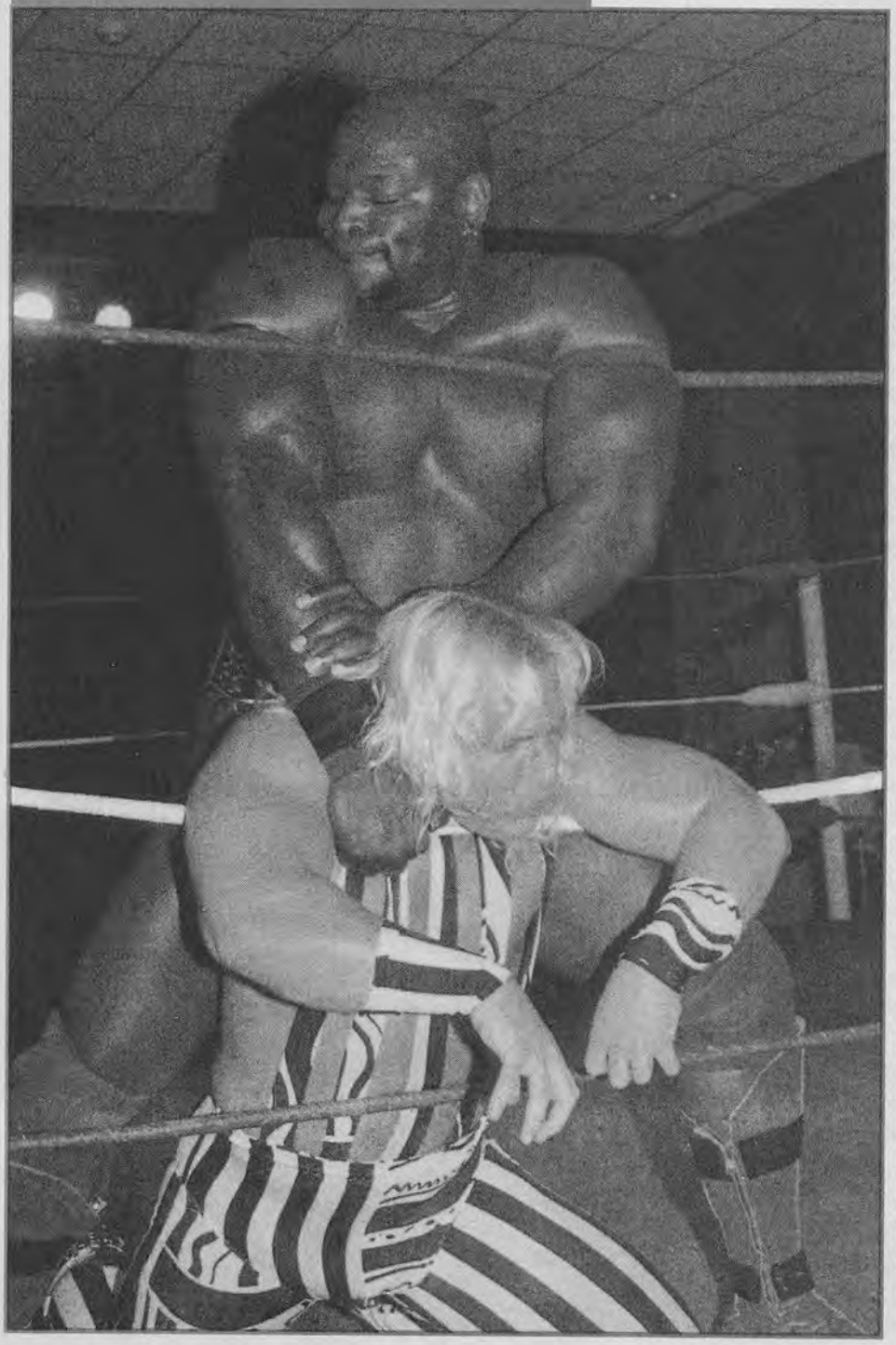
Miss Patricia has been hanging around **Jeff Jarrett** a lot since he won the USWA heavyweight title from **Jerry Lawler** on April 20, and she has also been seen in the company of several other USWA wrestlers recently. She admits she's toying with the idea of paying out big bucks to form a USWA stable. Patricia was also spotted in a dressing room at the ECW Arena ... **Twiggy Ramirez** became the new Tri-County Wrestling junior heavyweight champion by beating **Battlestar** ... **Chris Hamrick** has beaten **Austin Steele** for the Pro Wrestling Federation Eastern States title ... I'm glad to see **Savio Vega** getting better matches in the WWF. He's a superb talent.

That's the newest Dudley to make his ECW debut there on the right. His name is D-Von Dudley, and says his first priority is to toughen up Bubba Ray Dudley

The AIWF deserves a pat on the back for promoting several cards to benefit the Special Olympics ... **Madd Maxxine** has been fined $500 by PWF officials. The fine was levied after she choke-slammed fan **Ray Johnson**. Johnson had won a date with her in a drawing, but declined the date when he saw her up close! ... There's a new Dudley in town. I'm talking bout **D-Von Dudley**, who swears he will make a man out of **Bubba Ray Dudley**. "He's got the mentality of someone who's lower than an idiot," said D-Von. "I'll just have to slap a lot of sense into him!"

Reggie B. Fine has been given a title. **King Mabel** declared him **Sir Fine** and demands that all ring announcers, broadcasters, and fans refer to him that way ... Mexican wrestler **Mini Frisbee**, 25, had to have brain surgery after crashing head-first onto a concrete floor during a recent match ... Former woman wrestler **Betty Clark** died after a long struggle with cancer. She was 53 years old ... Crush is involved in the production of a film in Canada.

Ahmed Johnson dominated a short WWF feud with Jeff Jarrett earlier this year and, at press time, had yet to lose a singles match in the federation. He's now very frustrated, because he thinks it's time he got a shot at a title.



Although **Ahmed Johnson's** trying to remain very patient, he is hoping that WWF promoters will soon take a look at his unblemished WWF win-loss record and realize that it's time he got a shot at either the WWF World or Intercontinental title. "I see that Razor Ramon is still getting title shots at Goldust's Intercontinental belt," Ahmed said. "I also see that **The Ultimate Warrior**, who just started competing here again, got a bunch of Intercontinental title matches. I am just wondering out loud when my time will come." WWF President **Gorilla Monsoon** has told Ahmed that his time is coming very soon. Let's hope that Johnson, who was a rulebreaker early in his career, doesn't revert back to his old ways out of frustration before that time comes.

Beginning with this edition of "Ringside," wrestling expert **Don Laible** will be presenting a trivia question. The answer will be printed in next month's column, along with another question. This

(Continued from page 10)

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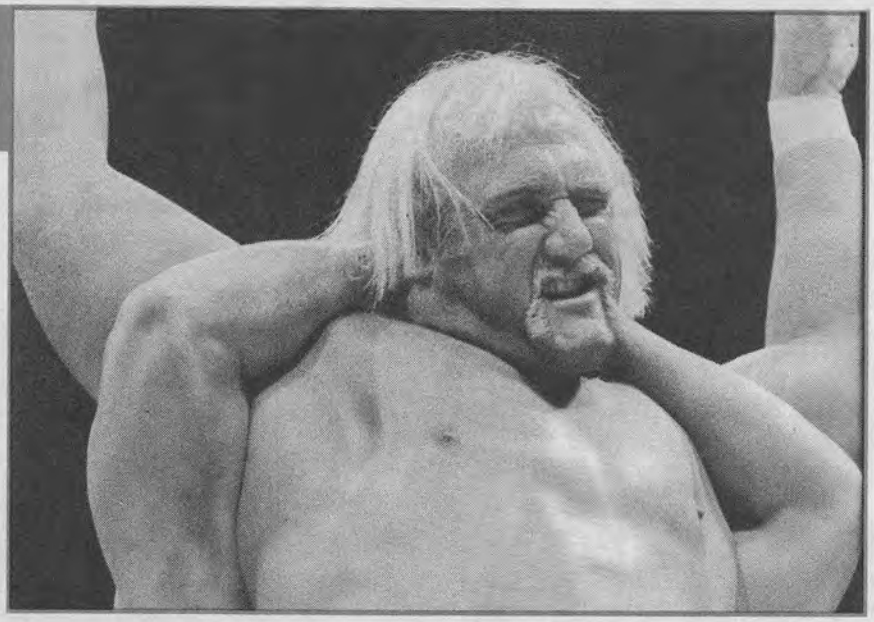


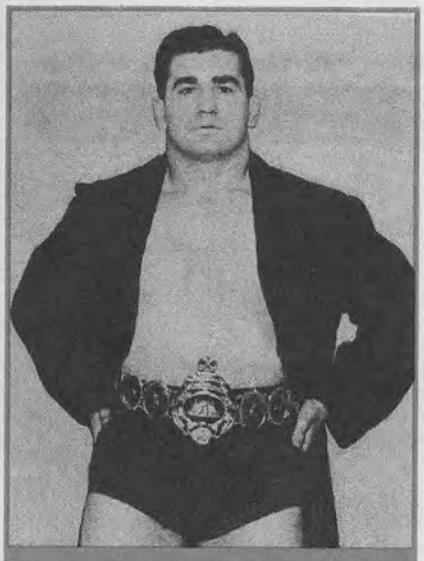
In this 1981 photo, Hulk Hogan looks to his manager for advice on how to break this full nelson. Who was his manager? Check out the answer in next month's "Ringside" column.

month's question: "Who managed **Hulk Hogan** when he was touring the AWA in 1981?"

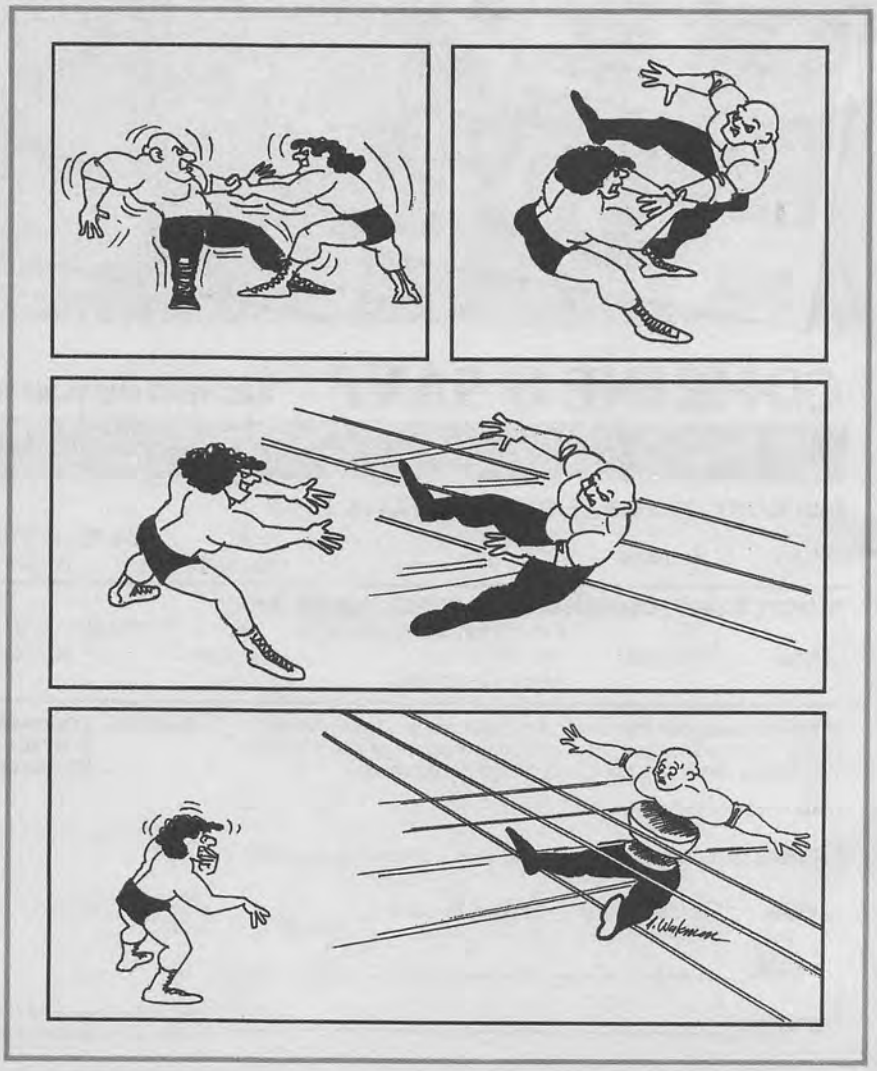
Lou Thesz turned 80 years young on April 24. I still speak to him often, and Lou is still as interested in wrestling now as he was when he first started his career. As you probably know, he's still part of the "X-Ray" panel in *The Wrestler*. "Although wrestling has changed so much since I started, I still love it," he told me.

Lou's wife, **Charlie** (yes, that's her name), said, "There's still that boyish twinkle in his eyes. He talks about the sport day and night, and I never tire of hearing about it. It's his fountain of youth." Happy birthday, Lou!

That's all for now. I'll see you at ringside! □



This is what Lou Thesz looked like shortly after he won his first NWA World title. Thesz recently celebrated his 80th birthday and still closely follows the sport that made him famous. Many happy returns, Lou!



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5. Taz vs. Sandman
6. Taz vs. Pitbull # 1 (dog collar match) bloody
7. Taz + Sabu vs. Pitbulls
8. Taz vs. Chris Benoit
9. Taz + Sabu vs. Malenko Brothers
10. Taz vs. Al Snow
11. Taz + Sabu vs. Public Enemy
12. Taz vs. Chris Benoit rematch

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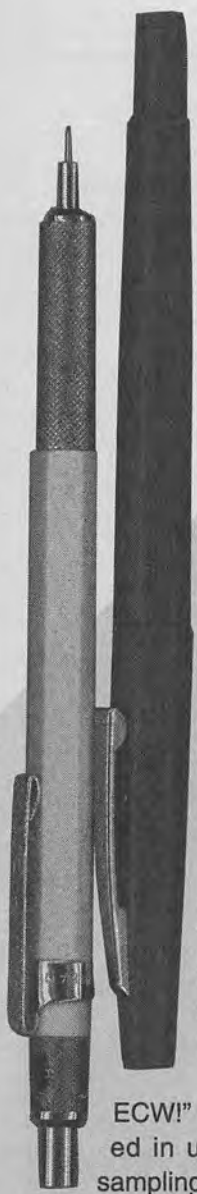
FROM THE DESK OF...

Stuart M. Saks

I THOUGHT I WAS in hell. Men were brawling recklessly, chairs were crunching skulls, and garbage cans were pounding backs. One-by-one, more men kept joining the fray. The fans' screams of delight were drowned out by blaring rap music. I was there, yet I wasn't. Everyone was involved in some way or another. Battlers. Spectators. Sound men. Security guards. Not me. I was merely an observer. Close enough to sense the raw emotions of the event, but far enough away to feel protected from the sheer horror of it.



"____ you," one of the battlers screamed at a spectator who made the mistake of using the wrong finger to express his view that the battler was number one.

An image of Lou Thesz came into my head. I eliminated it quickly. He should not be exposed to this!

Then again, this isn't for everybody. That's what the promoters of Extreme Championship Wrestling keep warning us.

"ECW! ... ECW! ... ECW!" the spectators chanted in unison after seeing a sampling of extreme wrestling. These are not fans of wrestlers per se; they're fans of the concept that nothing is to be held back in an effort to bring them what they want. Ever.

Brutality? Almost always. Breathtaking aerial wrestling? More than you'll see anywhere north of the Mexican border. Beautiful women? Hey, 95 percent of the audience is comprised of males between the ages of 18 and 35, and after being Dudleyed into submission, it's good for the eyes to look at Beulah McGillicutty for a few minutes.

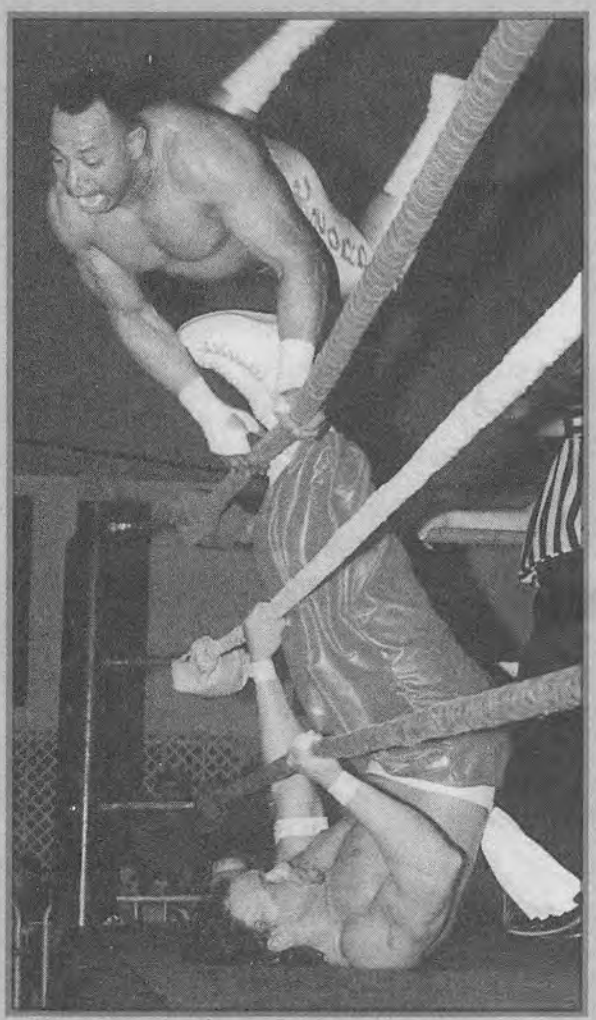
My walk through hell occurred in the strangest of places. This was not even the official ECW hell hole—the ECW Arena on the mean streets of South Philly. This was an auxiliary hell, in the quiet upper middle-class Philly suburb of Plymouth Meeting, in an all-purpose auditorium called Lu Lu Temple.

I was not there to cover wrestling matches on this evening. Bill Apter and Craig Peters were taking care of that. But Lu Lu (no relation to Ed Norton's deceased dog) is only a few miles up the road from our Ambler offices, so, with my Friday evening free, I went merely to record my thoughts of the big picture.

Randomly ...

* * *

ECW belongs in the family-oriented Lu Lu Temple like the Charlestown Chiefs of *Slap Shot* fame belong in Madison Square Garden ... I love the fact that some of the wrestlers made themselves available to the fans before the



2 Cold Scorpio and Sabu literally risked their necks in their ECW TV title match. ECW fans have grown almost jaded by such action, and their reactions aren't proportional to the efforts the wrestlers put forth.

Beulah McGillicutty gave Craig Peters an earful when she discovered that our associate publisher had given her a zero in the sex appeal category in a recent "In Focus" column.

matches began. Craig Peters might not agree. He was sitting on the stage behind the seats with Beulah, taking credit for her being on the cover of June '96 edition of *PWI*, when a fan interrupted their conversation and said, "Hey, Beulah, you're in *PWI*." Only this was the July edition, and the article the fan was making reference to was Craig's "In Focus" column in which he rated some of the more prominent women of wrestling in various categories. *This is great*, I thought. *More brownie points for Craig.* Craig, however, knew he was in trouble. Beulah finished ninth on his list of 10! "Sex appeal—zero?!" she shrieked. Craig responded sheepishly: "But look at the reason why. You're pregnant." "Zero?!" she shrieked. "But—" "Zero?!" ... As match time approached, I heard a fan yell, "ECW rules!" Talk about your classic oxymoron. I bet you could fit a copy of the ECW rulebook on one page of *PWI*—and still have room for pictures. There are no rules in hell. Referees? They have them, but they don't even make a pretense of counting to four when traditionally illegal acts take place. The fans booed both referees when they were introduced, but I don't see why. They do exactly what the fans want them to do—nothing ... I saw a young fan throw a flattened soda can toward the ring. The promoter also saw it. Acting swiftly and properly, he had the fan tossed ... And, yes, there was wrestling at the Lu Lu Temple, too. In fact, I'd venture to say that the match between TV champion 2 Cold Scorpio and Sabu was one of the 20 best matches I have ever seen. Too bad the ECW fans didn't appreciate it. About a minute into the match, many of the fans started with that ignorant "Boring!" chant. I suppose they just couldn't wait for the wrestlers to get past that feeling-out phase before really getting down to business. But get down to business they did; more accurately, I should say get *up* to business. These two men performed aerial feats that rendered the term "high-risk" a gross understatement. In one memorable sequence, Scorpio had Sabu in trouble and mounted the turnbuckles. Sabu lifted himself off the canvas, ran across the ring, sprung off a chair that had been left near the ropes, and maneuvered his body so that he was able to grab Scorpio around the neck with his legs. Sabu then reversed his momentum and "Frankensteinered" Scorpio from the turnbuckles down to a table at ringside. When I was a young wrestling fan, a dropkick was a spectacular move. This was beyond belief! The fans were appreciative; they should have fallen out of their seats ... I guess you can't give people too much because their natural inclination is to always want more. Ultimately, you'll have nothing more to give them, and one day you may even find them chanting "Boring!" rather than "ECW!" □

in focus

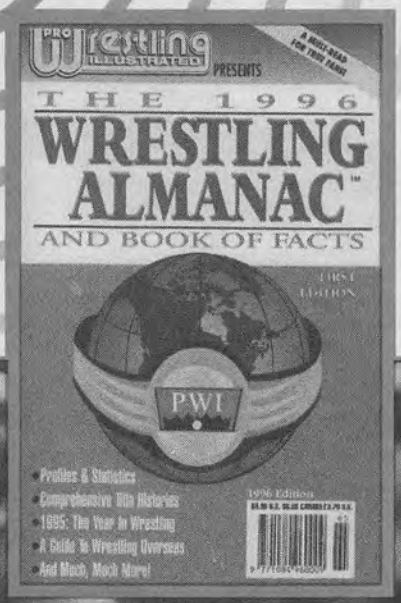
By Craig Peters

WRESTLING ALMANAC FEEDBACK

Initially, I was going to write this column about the embarrassment of having to confront Beulah McGillicutty at an ECW card recently. But Stu Saks covered that topic in his column, so I'll let that suffice! Instead, I'll talk about a happier topic: the *PWI Almanac*.

Well, sort of happier.

"Sort of," because while we're receiving all kinds of complimentary letters from readers about the *Almanac* (and thank you all for those accolades), we're also receiving letters detailing errors and omissions.



The biggest error noted thus far is certainly the fact that we left out a pair of Intercontinental title changes. We left out Marty Jannetty's May 17, 1993, title victory over Shawn Michaels, as well as Michaels' return victory over Jannetty on June 6, 1993.

Some of you, by the way, have rubbed salt in the wound by pointing out that Jannetty-Michaels was voted Match of the Year for 1993. True, but neither of the title bouts was that award-winning match; the winner was a July 19 contest at New York's Manhattan Center that aired on *WWF Monday Night Raw*.

Another frequently cited error in the *Almanac* is that we left out listings and results for several pay-per-view cards, including Battlebowl '93 and Fall Brawl '93, as well as a few of the Japan supershows.

Rest assured that

Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty had many great matches in 1993. It's hard to believe we omitted two title changes involving them in the first edition of the *PWI Almanac*. You can be sure that mistake won't happen again.

these errors, and many other relatively minor mistakes, will be rectified in the second edition.

More fascinating (and gratifying!) than the mistakes, though, are the letters suggesting improvements in next year's edition. Many of you didn't think the wrestler profiles were relevant to the *Almanac*. There were also plenty of readers who wanted to see listings of results for non-pay-per-view cards like the Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournaments and the Clash of the Champions cards. Nothing's set in stone yet, but I can almost assure you at this point that both suggestions will be taken to heart and acted upon appropriately.

And please: Don't think that because you haven't sent in your suggestions yet, it's too late to have them considered for next year's edition. We need your ideas, we need to know about our errors, and we want to see any pieces of information you may have that would make appropriate second edition additions.

Address all *Almanac*-related mail to: *PWI Almanac*, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

Believe it or not, the second edition is in the works as you read this ... and it's gonna be even better than the first!

FIRST BERNUCCA, NOW ...

Last issue, Chris Bernucca wrote his final column for PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. I report with mixed emotions that this marks my final "In Focus" column.

I am not leaving the pages of *PWI*, however, but rather shifting my focus from those pages that include editorial material to those that include advertising. My new title—director of advertising—brings with it responsibilities that, unfortunately, will take up so much of my time that I simply won't be able to find space in the month for "In Focus."

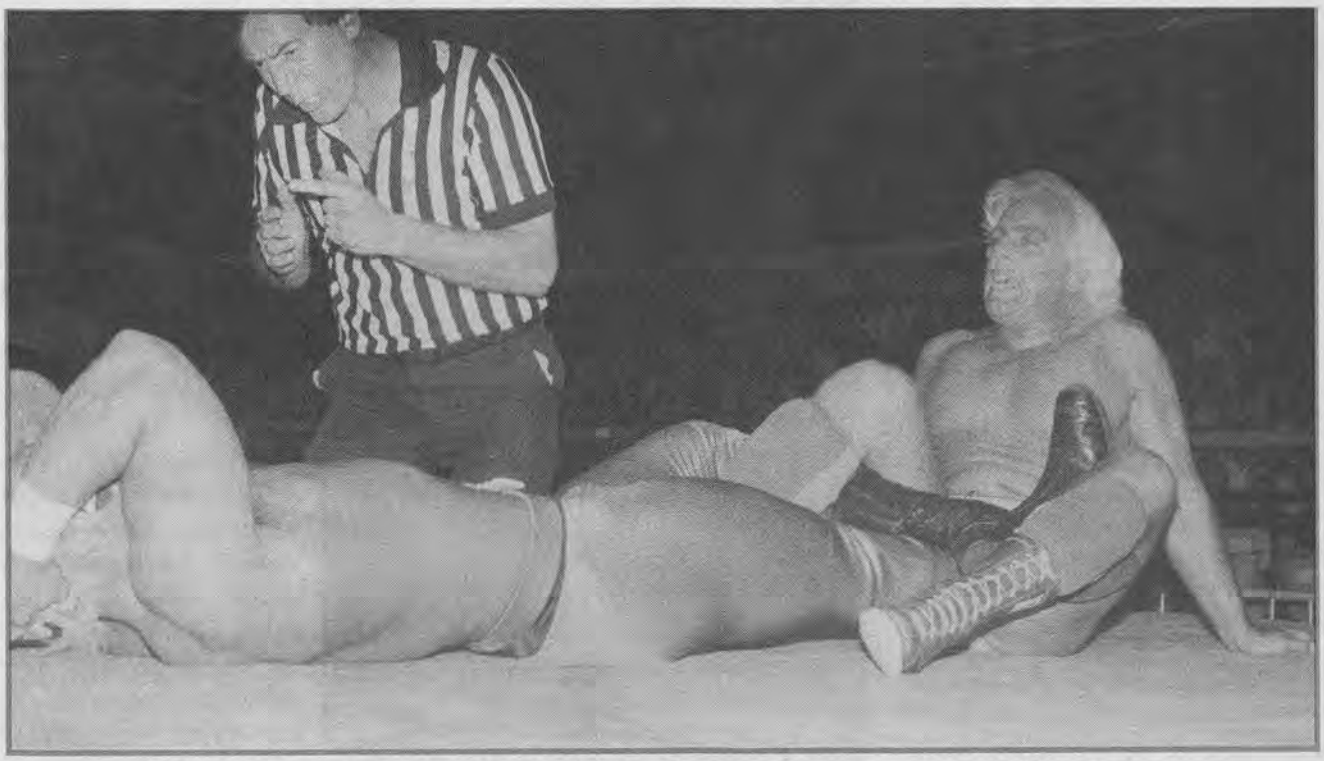
I'll still be involved in the sport, of course, and I'll still be involved to some degree in the production of *PWI* and its sister publications. (And I'll remain as publisher of *Remember*, our bimonthly title that's sort of a nostalgic *People* magazine.) But my advertising duties will include not only this company's wrestling magazines, but also nearly 100 titles in the boxing, hockey, horoscope, gardening, crossword, word-search, and variety puzzle fields. Unfortunately, "In Focus" is one of the sacrifices I need to make, and I'm going to miss these two pages. I am more than comfortable, however, with the fact that Dave Lenker will be assuming the "In Focus" mantle.

So this isn't a "goodbye" column per se; it's more of a "see you later" column. I'll still be hanging around here, I just won't be as visible.

(And if you want to buy an ad—or know the advertising managers for Coke, Pepsi, or Nike!—I'll be more than happy to send you a rate card.)

Thanks for reading.

See you later. □



Sting battled NWA World champion Ric Flair to a 45-minute draw in the main event of the inaugural Clash of the Champions held in Greensboro, North Carolina. Many *PWI Almanac* readers want to see Clash results included in the second edition of the *Almanac*.

off the top rope

by Eddie Ellner

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

Dear Ellner,

I see where Bill Alfonso has been managing Taz in ECW. Alfonso seems like just the kind of maniac you would idolize. Am I right?

GLENN GABLE
Allentown, PA

Dear Glenn,

Is it true that they're almost finished paving the roads in your beautiful city? The last time I was in Allentown, my car was almost swallowed up by a pothole the size of the gap between Ultimate Warrior's ears.

As for Alfonso, it's not surprising that you're a bit off in your analysis. Many people with little intuition incorrectly assume that I blindly support every so-called rulebreaker. Nothing could be further from the truth. Alfonso is out of control. He could use a healthy dose of psychological counseling, although not more than Ms. Beryl-Jacobo. But I'll admit it: I kinda like the guy. He has ECW Commissioner Tod Gordon so flustered that he doesn't know what to do. And Taz has never looked better since he took on Fonzi. I wonder if Ms. Beryl-Jacobo would be interested in starting the Bill Alfonso Fan Club.

SOMETIMES MAIL IS too good not to share, like the time our offices received some black and whites of Linda Dallas in a wet T-shirt. Unfortunately, although the spirit was willing, the flesh was flabby. Then the other day, Dave Rosenbaum mentioned a letter he received from the secretary of a Vince McMahon Fan Club.

"The what?" I asked, incredulous that such a thing actually existed.

"The Vince McMahon Fan Club," he said, then produced the envelope, which was decorated with photos of Vince in various poses, and the letter, which came from Kyrie Raven Beryl-Jacobo. That name is just too good not to be real.

A battle quickly ensued over the letter. I told Rosenbaum I wanted it. He said it was his, which it was, although there is a rule in this office about sharing column ideas. A letter from the secretary of the Vince McMahon Fan Club is not only good for one column—it's good for a series of columns, an epic, perhaps some psychological analysis. But it was not to be. Rosenbaum held on, so this column is devoted to the usual drivel: your letters.

Hard to believe that this is one of the most dangerous duos in all of ECW: Taz and Bill Alfonso. Fonzi is an inspiration to frustrated referees everywhere.

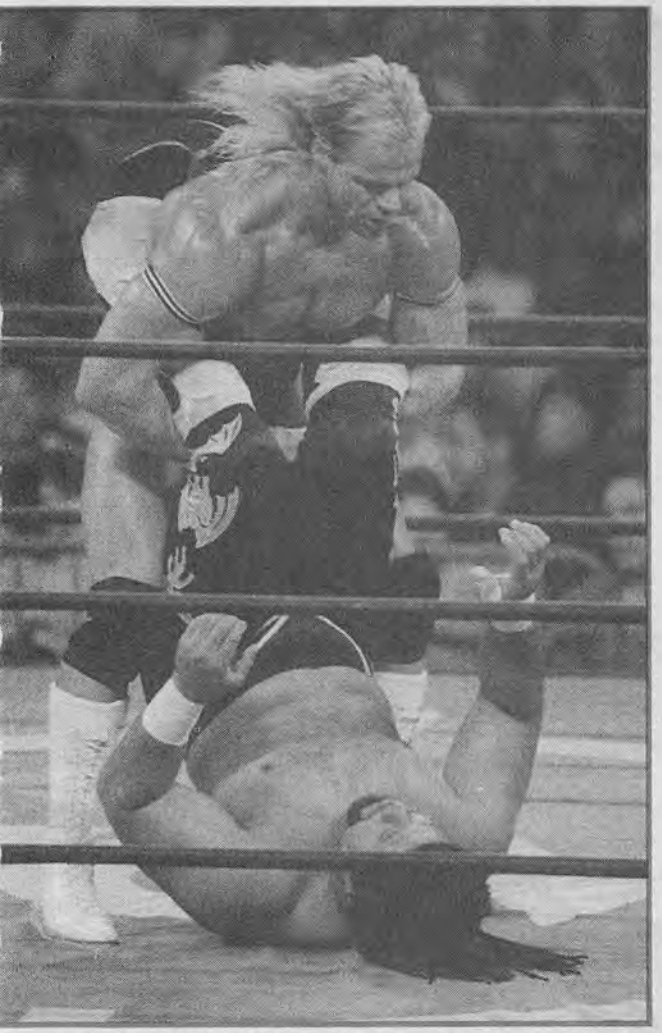
Dear Eddie,

What do you think about rules that prohibit wrestlers from holding two titles in the same federation at once? I don't think Lex Luger should have been allowed to keep the WCW TV and the World tag team title with Sting. Isn't there a rule in WCW about this?

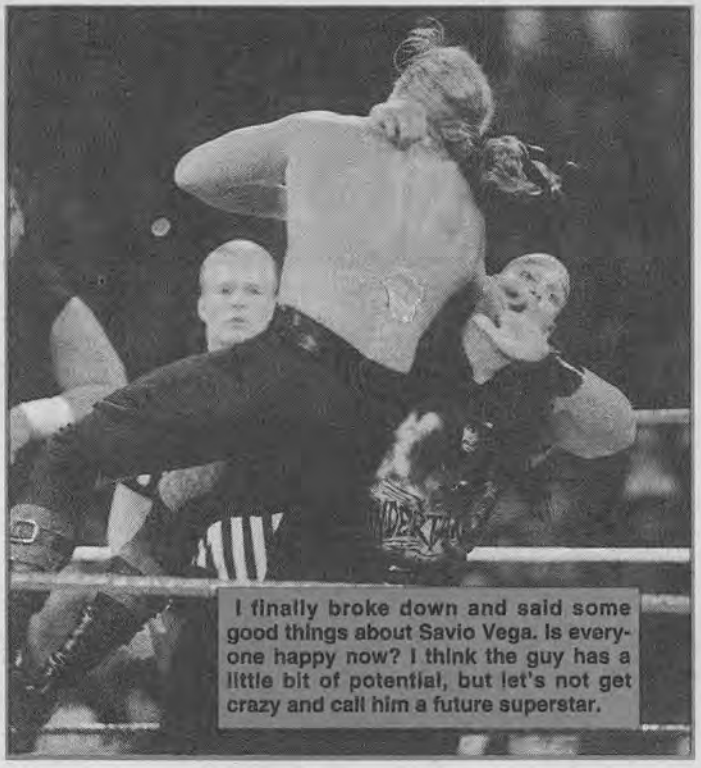
MICHAEL CAMPBELL
Charleston, SC

Dear Soup Boy,

The kind of rule about which you speak makes about as much sense as a lot of other wrestling rules, meaning it makes no sense at all. What does the WCW TV title have to do with the WCW World tag team title? Nothing at all. I could see if he had the TV title and the



Hope you enjoyed holding two titles at once in WCW, Lex Luger, because they could be the last two titles you ever hold. And I'm not saying that because I don't like you, Lex. You know I've always been a big fan!



I finally broke down and said some good things about Savio Vega. Is everyone happy now? I think the guy has a little bit of potential, but let's not get crazy and call him a future superstar.

World title. Once again, the kind folks in WCW are making things up as they go along. I don't think they even know if such a rule exists. And it wouldn't be fair to take one of those belts away from Lex Luger anyway. Let him enjoy his two championship reigns, I say, because, realistically speaking, how many more titles can we expect him to win?

Dear Eddie,

I'm a huge fan of The American Males and think they don't get as much attention as they deserve. What do you think?

AMY BRADY
Cincinnati, OH

Dear Amy,

In a recent survey I did, I found that nine out of 10 wrestling fans didn't know that The American Males are Marcus Alexander Bagwell and Scotty Riggs. Eight out of 10 had never heard of The American Males at all, and 10 out of 10 didn't realize that Bagwell and Riggs once held the WCW World tag team title for about 15 minutes last fall. I think they've been overexposed. It's time Bagwell found another tag team partner whose career he could help to ruin.

Dear Eddie,

I know you admire Savio Vega, but now that he's feuding with Goldust, what do you think will happen? I think Goldust's experience will be too much for Savio.

RITA MAY
Malibu, CA

Dear Meter May,

When have I ever said a good thing about Savio Vega? Have you confused me with a man named Bill Apter, a man who thinks any wrestler who can get a dozen or so fans to cheer for him on a given night is "the next great superstar." Okay, I'll break down and say some nice things. Vega has the skill to rise above the mid-card level in the WWF. He has wrestled some borderline brilliant matches against Goldust, but I've also seem him struggle mightily at times against Hunter Hearst Helmsley and Isaac Yankem, so I'd say he's a tad inconsistent. Goldust's been around for too long and knows too much. If he can keep his genes from surfacing, he should bury Vega in this feud.

Dear Eddie,

Is Big Van Vader going to be the next WWF World champion?

PHIL LEGAULT
Montreal, Quebec

Dear Phil,

The way I see it, only the reincarnation of Bruiser Brody can stop him. □

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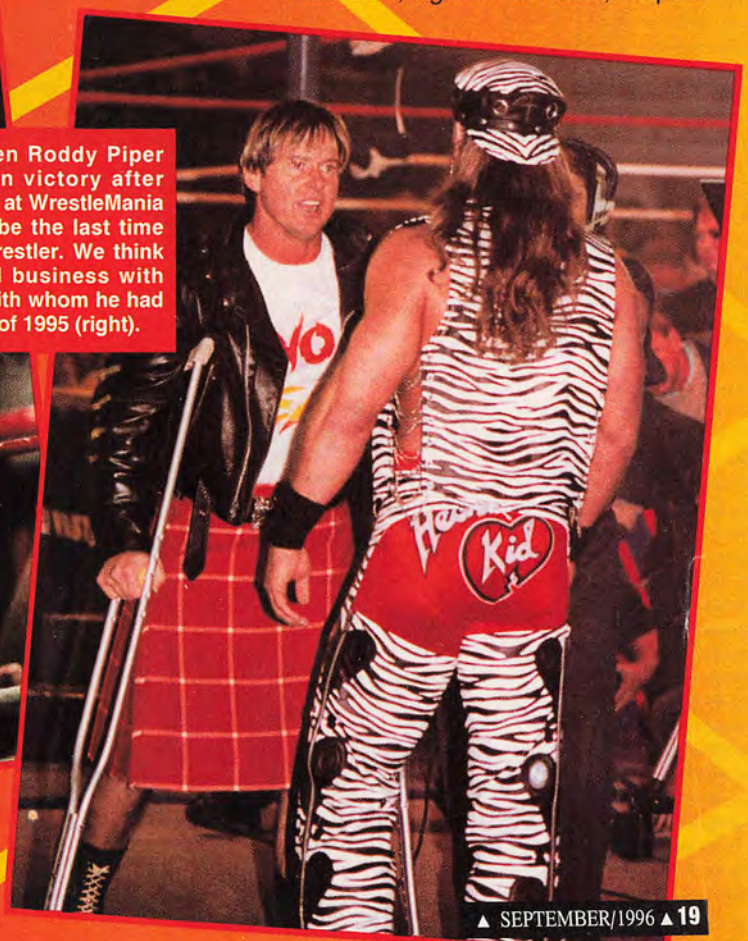
Show us Your Brave Heart, Roddy

HEY, PIPER: IT'S TIME TO WRESTLE SHAWN!

So you say we've seen the last of Roddy Piper in a wrestling ring? He has nothing left to accomplish? We're not so sure. We think there's one more opponent he might like a shot at beating

By Harry Simon

MEL GIBSON SEEMED like a natural to play the part of Sir William Wallace in the Oscar-winning motion picture *Braveheart*. Who would be better than Gibson for a role as Scotsman who, against all odds, helped



Some figured when Roddy Piper raised his hand in victory after destroying Goldust at WrestleMania XII (left), it would be the last time he'd do so as a wrestler. We think he has unfinished business with Shawn Michaels, with whom he had a run-in in January of 1995 (right).

If you listened to Piper during any of the interviews he has given in the last year, you know he still talks passionately about wrestling. He's still loves it. And it still burns him that he never won the WWF title.

his native country win its freedom from England?

The man who played Wallace would have to be special, for Wallace was charismatic, had a passion for battle, and had a way of inspiring others with his courage and tenacity. And, of course, it wouldn't hurt if the man who played Wallace looked good and felt comfortable in a kilt.

But there's at least one man besides Gibson who fits this description to a tee. Just picture the marquis now: Opening Tonight—*Braveheart*, Starring Roddy Piper!

It's not so farfetched. Piper knows plenty about motion pictures. For the better part of the last nine years, he has shunned the mat sport for a successful acting career and starred in such movies as *They Live* and *Hell Comes To Frogtown*. And why not? "Hot Rod" is one of the most recognized personalities ever to come out of the ring. He only returned to the WWF in January because his good friend Gorilla Monsoon needed someone to take over the presidency of the WWF while he recovered from injuries Big Van Vader inflicted upon him. Piper didn't need money. He was just doing a friend a favor. He has nothing left to prove in the ring ... or does he?

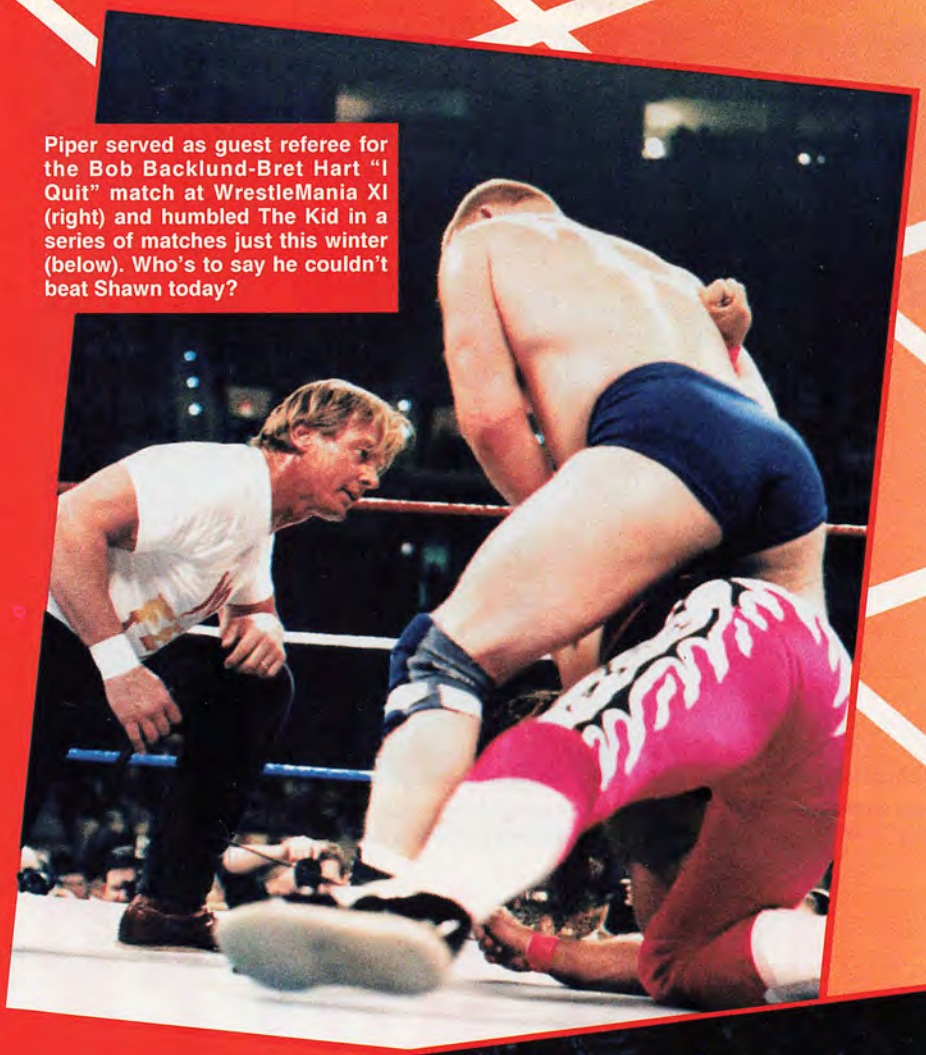
"He always used to tell me he didn't want to retire without getting his hands on that World title belt," said Bob Orton, Piper's former bodyguard. "People forget that Piper played as big a role as anyone during the whole rock 'n' wrestling boom of the '80s. Maybe if Piper never attacked Mr. T on his set that night, there would be no WrestleMania today. But most people won't remember that. There are the champions and then there's everybody else."

It burns Piper to think that Yokozuna, Sgt. Slaughter, and Diesel have all won the WWF title and he hasn't. That's why when those close to Piper say we haven't necessarily seen the last of him in the WWF, we have to take them seriously. And when they tell you he's been watching WWF champ Shawn Michaels very closely lately, we shouldn't laugh.

Piper has much in common with Michaels. In a sport in which 6'8" 300-pound-plus beasts seem to run roughshod, both Piper (6'2", 231) and Michaels (6', 234) have thrived in the face of all the odds. Both were forced to learn early how to use their wits just to survive. Winning came later.

But the most obvious similarity between Piper and Michaels is that both are brash, arrogant, and irrepressible behind the microphone. They account for arguably the two most entertaining interviews in the WWF. Despite their difference in age, it seems strange that these two never collided in a series of matches.

But they *almost* did. In the



Piper served as guest referee for the Bob Backlund-Bret Hart "I Quit" match at WrestleMania XI (right) and humbled The Kid in a series of matches just this winter (below). Who's to say he couldn't beat Shawn today?

spring of 1992, Michaels was just starting to come into his own as a singles wrestler. That didn't prevent the cocky "Boy Toy" from issuing a challenge to the winner of the WrestleMania VIII Intercontinental title match between champion Piper and Bret Hart. But since Hart defeated Piper for the title, Michaels pursued "The Hitman" while Piper said hooray for Hollywood. Then Davey Boy Smith captured the Intercontinental belt from Hart, only to lose it to Michaels weeks later. Michaels had his championship, Piper had his movies, and both were happy.

But the competitive fire still burns within Piper today. He was as rowdy as ever when he vanquished The Kid in a series of bouts this past March ... and when he nearly maimed I-C champ Goldust at WrestleMania XII. If Piper can so thoroughly dominate the number-two wrestler in the WWF, why can't he contend for the top prize right now?

But does the WWF really *want* Piper as the federation's flagbearer? Michaels is young, handsome, and talented. He appeals to fans of all ages. He is the leader of the WWF's "New Generation."

"A lot of people in the WWF couldn't have been happier when Shawn won the belt," said a WWF insider. "Shawn has all the marketability the WWF could ask for and then some. In Shawn, you could have the next Hoganesque megastar."

Piper-Shawn could be big box office, too, though. A charismatic star of one era against the cocky star of another—with the World title at stake. True, Michaels would be a huge favorite. In the last year alone, he bested Bret in the grueling WrestleMania "Iron Man" match, won his third I-C belt in a thrilling match with Jeff Jarrett, pounded Razor Ramon in a punishing ladder match at SummerSlam, and out-

(Continued on page 56)

press conference...

Lawler and Vince McMahon make for an interesting broadcasting duo on WWF Monday Night Raw telecasts. "The King" thinks WWF telecasts would be more entertaining if he alone did the commentary.

JERRY LAWLER

JERRY LAWLER EXEMPLIFIES the term renaissance man. Besides being wrestling's premiere monarch, Lawler has displayed his skills as a cartoonist and has shown promise as a color commentator on WWF telecasts.

Lately, though, he has taken the latter to extremes. Not content with just wrestling or just commentating, Lawler decided to try combining the two. On two occasions, he wrestled preliminary WWF opponents with a wireless microphone in tow. The intent of this was not to use the microphone as a weapon (though he ended up doing that), but rather to give Lawler a chance to do his own commentary during the match—to show his skills in both vocations.

Lawler's controversial ways earn him the ire of fans and journalists. Yet he still remains a hot commodity for interviews. When the editors of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED approached him about participating in this issue's "Press Conference," he initially refused. He claimed that he was weary of the "stupid and inane" questions from the "peasants of journalism."

After some persuasion, Lawler agreed, but on his terms. ***He*** *would select the interviewer. With the terms set, the only issue left unresolved was when. Days after he agreed, he surprised us with a phone call. "I got it," he said. "I'll fax you the transcript now." Shocked by the sudden completion of this assignment, we asked Lawler about the identity of the interviewer.*

"The best interviewer in the world," he replied. "Me!"

The following is a transcript of the "interview" Jerry Lawler conducted with Jerry Lawler. He met the conditions that ***PWI*** *established, so we have an obligation to present this "dialogue" to you.*

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

JERRY LAWLER: Welcome to this very special press conference, Mr.—oh, I'm sorry—"King" Lawler, your royal highness.

JERRY LAWLER: Thank you for that gracious welcome. I'd say I don't deserve it, but we all know I do.

LAWLER: You certainly do. So tell me this: What's it like to be the greatest wrestler and greatest commentator of all-time?

LAWLER: You're forgetting about my artistic skills. I am also the greatest cartoonist of all-time. Forget that Steve Anderson kid. He couldn't draw a crowd. He entered a "Draw Tippy" contest and his entry was sent back "Return to Sender, Said Drawing Stinks."

"The future of wrestling begins and ends with me. By the end of this year, I will be atop both the USWA and the WWF!"

LAWLER: You are so correct, "King." How could I forget? So tell me about your glorious career. What would you say is your greatest accomplishment?

LAWLER: You talk as if my career is over. It's just beginning.

LAWLER: Okay then, your highness. Your greatest accomplishment thus far?

LAWLER: I could point to the countless titles that I have won. I could point to the historic matches that I have accentuated with brilliant commentary. But there is one achievement that stands out among the rest.

LAWLER: Well, please don't keep me in suspense, "King." What would that be?

LAWLER: That would be totally embarrassing and humiliating the dysfunctional, in-bred brood known as the Hart family.

LAWLER: Funny, that's just what I would have guessed.

LAWLER: Of course that excludes Owen. That apple fell far from that tree. In fact, that tree didn't produce as many apples as it did ugly sticks.

LAWLER: If you look at it objectively, you'd have to say that they *are* an unattractive group to say the least.

LAWLER: No doubt about it. The butcher shops in Calgary did great business. Stu and Helen had to buy pounds of pork chops to hang around each of their kids' necks to get the dogs to play with them.

LAWLER: Stu and Helen aren't exactly raving beauties themselves.

LAWLER: When they first woke up in each other's arms, they acted like coyotes.

LAWLER: Coyotes?

LAWLER: They each gnawed off their arm out of fear of waking the other.

LAWLER: *(Laughing)* You're so funny, "King," you ought to be a standup comedian.

LAWLER: Who do you think was the original choice to replace Johnny Carson?

LAWLER: You?

LAWLER: You bet. They wanted my snappy repartee to be a part of *The Tonight Show With Jerry Lawler*. But I shot them down. That Jay Leno was a last-minute attempt to salvage their show.

LAWLER: Back to wrestling, the area you excel in most. Look into your crystal ball. Give us your keen insight on the future of wrestling.

LAWLER: The future of wrestling

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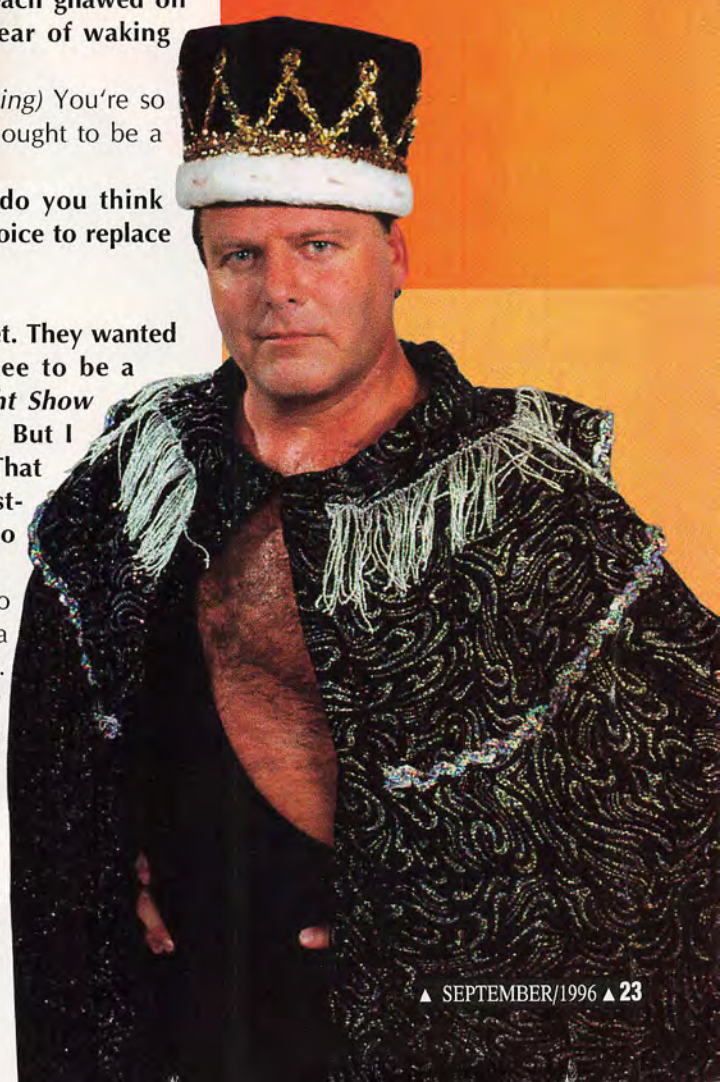
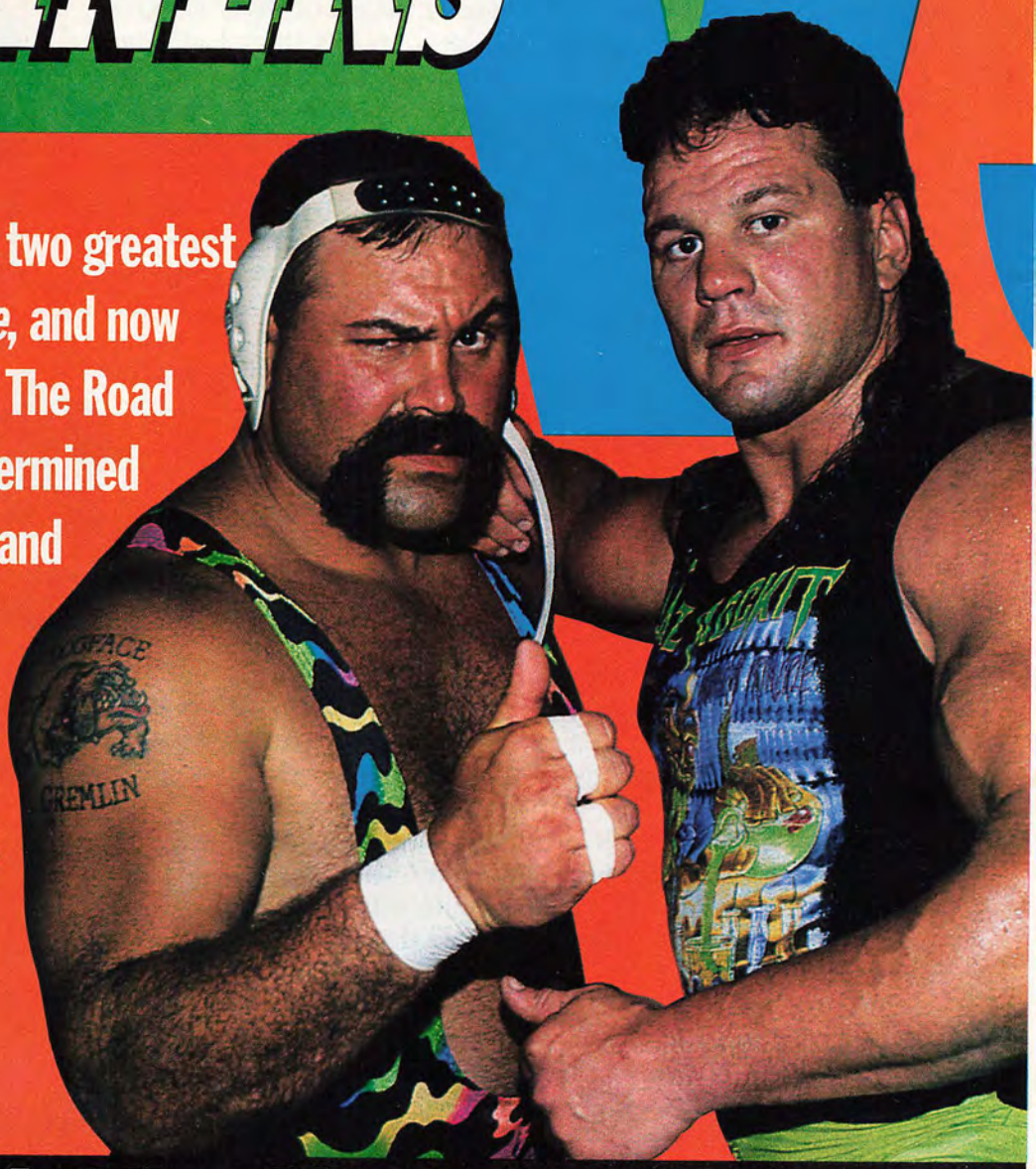


THE STEINERS

They may be the two greatest teams of *all-time*, and now the Steiners and The Road Warriors are determined to find out once and for all who the greatest is. If the Warriors' time has passed, they'll never admit it!



Why It's The Most Important

THE ROAD WARRIORS

Feud In Tag Team History

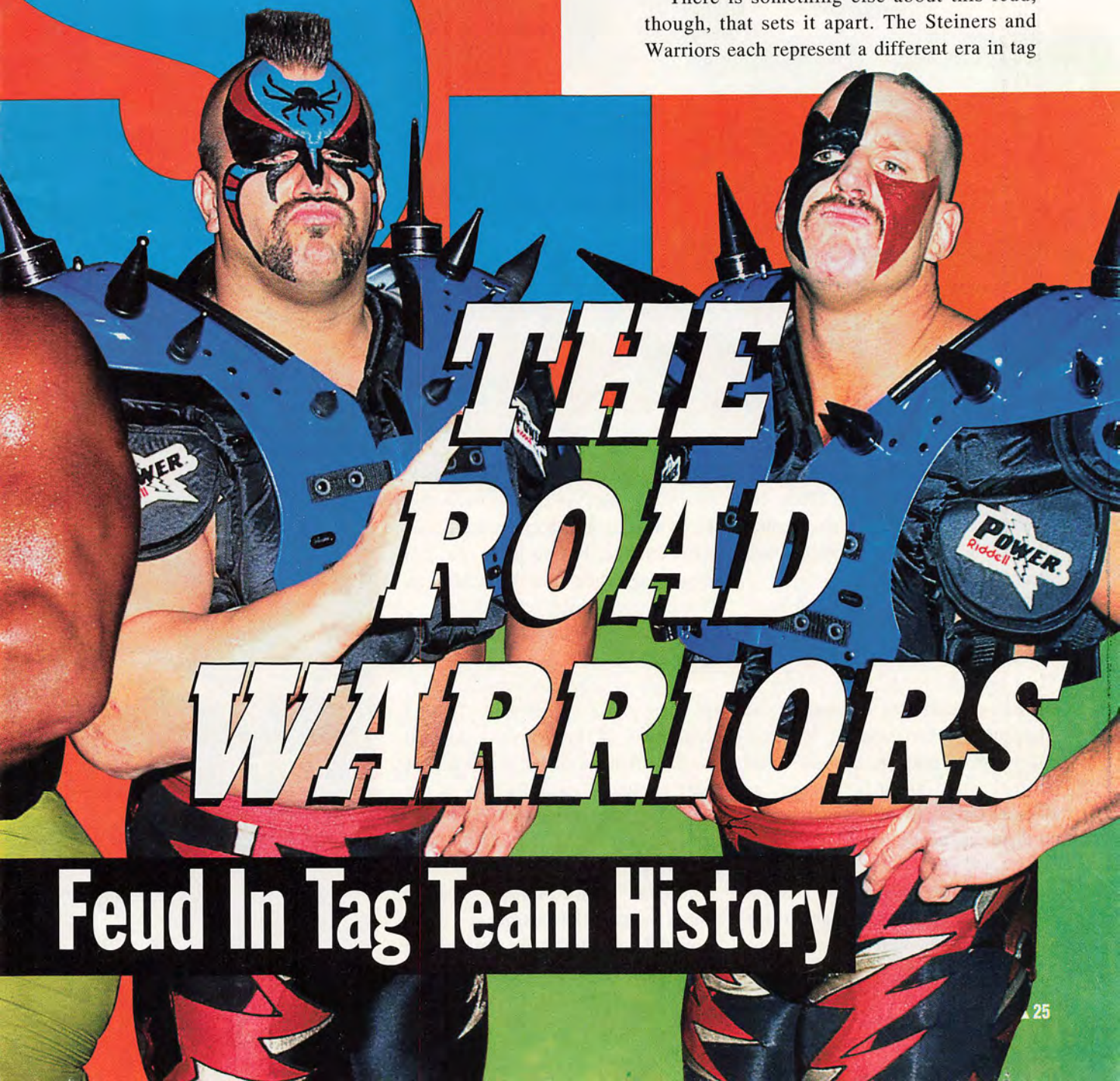
By Andy Rodriguez

HAWK HAS INTENSIFIED his training schedule. So has Animal. Rick Steiner has been doing a lot more homework lately. So has his brother, Scott.

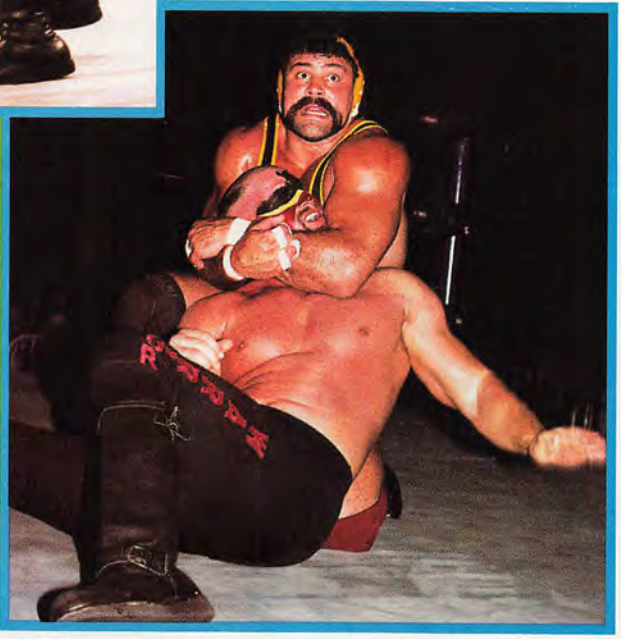
All four men are preparing for what many are calling the greatest tag team feud of all-time: It's the Steiners vs. The Road Warriors, and the winner gets to be known as the greatest of all-time. Unofficially, at least.

Actually, the feud already is underway. It is thrilling those who love tag team wrestling. The regular displays of power, speed, agility, and precision demonstrate why the two teams have been so dominant.

There is something else about this feud, though, that sets it apart. The Steiners and Warriors each represent a different era in tag



The battles between Rick Steiner and Hawk didn't just start earlier this year (above). They started a few years ago (right), and both men and their partners are glad to be feuding again. Both duos want to be known as the best tag team ever.



team wrestling. The Warriors were incredibly dominant in the 1980s. No sane team looked forward to a contest against the bad boys from the bad streets of Chicago.

Rick and Scott Steiner began teaming in the '80s, but not until the next decade did they begin to dominate. They brought to the ring plenty of wrestling skills and an intensity as frightening as anything the Warriors had ever displayed. If Hawk and Animal could boast they were "as close as brothers," the Steiners could do them one better: They *were* brothers.

When the Steiners left the U.S. for Japan, other outstanding teams filled the void. But they weren't the Steiners. That's why when the brothers returned, a nation of wrestling aficionados rejoiced. Meanwhile, the Warriors had commenced a comeback of sorts in January. Convinced they could still dominate, Hawk and Animal got back together full-time in WCW—which is where they met up with the Steiners.

"We got a lot of respect for Rick and Scott!" shouted Animal. "But they haven't got past the Warriors! If they do that, then they'll get our full respect!"

"It's like Animal said," said Hawk. "We think—no, we *know*—we're still the best team. The Steiners have won lots of titles, but so have we. Let them brag when this thing is over. This thing ain't over yet!"

The Steiners know it definitely is not over.

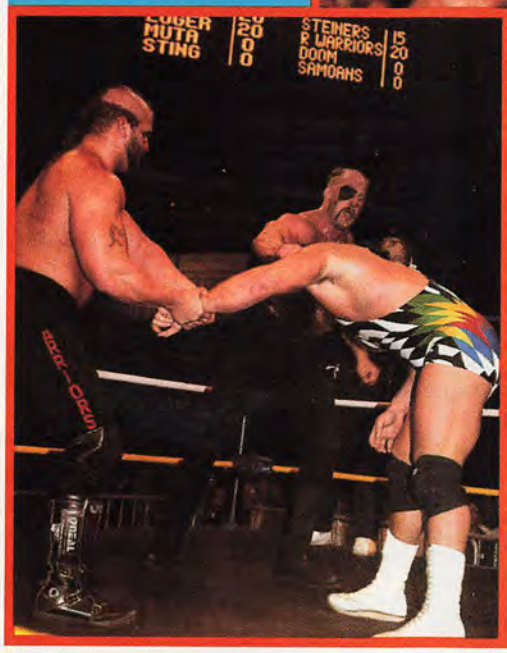
"Right now we're wrestling better than ever," Scott said. "And I mean *ever*. If the Warriors do beat us, they'll have to be at the top of their games. This definitely is the biggest challenge me and my brother have ever faced, but we've been preparing for it our whole career!"

"Yeah!" Rick added. "This is gonna be sweet! It's time for us to show the people who the best is, and you know it's us!"

Most fans have been anticipating this feud as much as the two teams have. There are some folks, however, who say this feud is not what it appears to be. They say it isn't fair to say the Steiners and the Warriors are matched evenly. They say the Warriors have seen better days.

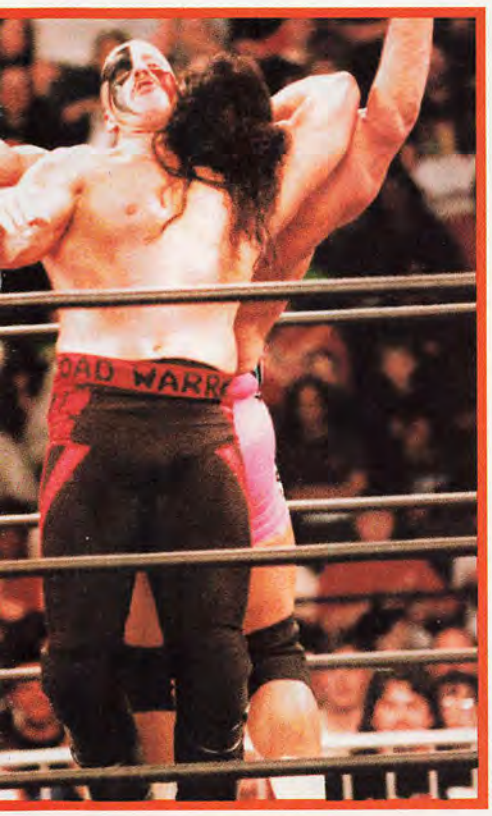
"Hawk and Animal are still among the best," said former AWA World tag team champion Greg

Whether it be using a simple neckbreaker on Scott (right) or double-teaming him with Animal's help (below), Hawk just loves beating up on men named Steiner. He scoffs at any notion that the Warriors are far past their prime.



Gagne. "No one can argue that. But you can't tell me they're nearly as good as they were when they first came into the AWA back in '84. They're just not as intimidating as they were."

"It would be almost impossible for the Warriors to maintain that level of excellence for so long," argued Lou Thesz. "They've been a team for, what, 12 years now. The little, nagging injuries don't heal as quickly as



they used to. I think this is a great feud they're having with the Steiners, but to say the Steiners will have beaten the best just isn't true."

For their critics, Hawk and Animal have a very simple message: Watch us!

"I don't know what Gagne and Thesz are looking at," thundered Animal, "but they better start opening their eyes! Me and Hawk don't live in the past! No matter what we've done, we're always looking for greater things. We're still far ahead of everybody else!"

"Physically," said Hawk, "we're still strong, and with all our experience, we're mentally sharper than we've ever been. That's a fact! So maybe we don't 'define an era' anymore, whatever that means! All we ever wanted to do was kick some butt, and we're still doing it!"

And whatever you do, don't put the Steiners on the side of the Warriors' detractors.

"Hell, we don't buy that nonsense!" Scott said. "Hawk and Animal are a dangerous, dangerous team. Past their prime? What does that mean? Do you mean that because they don't have the belts anymore they're not as good? Me and Rick never needed belts to prove ourselves, and I bet Hawk and Animal would say the same thing."

"Maybe the year's not the same," Rick added, "but the team is. If the Warriors got into a feud with anybody else, I'd put my money on them. Trouble for them is, they're feuding with us!"

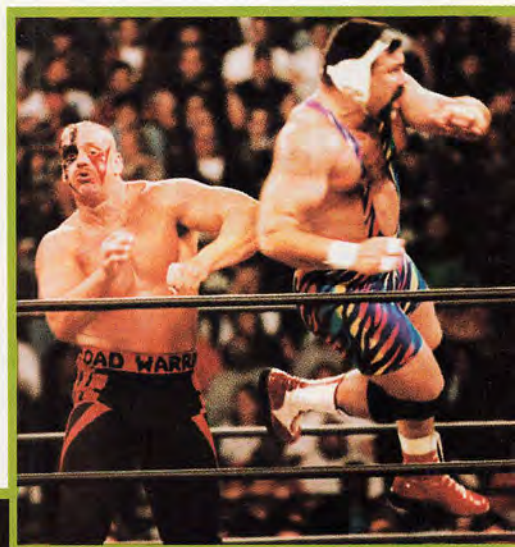
Nevertheless, the doubts have been raised, and they are valid ones. With respect to The Road Warriors, they simply are not the dominant powerhouses they were back in the '80s. Sure, they're great, but there are a lot of great teams. Were the Steiners to win a feud with any of those teams, the victory would be almost as impressive.

But how much would it really mean?

"There are tag teams," said WCW commentator Larry Zbyszko, "and then there are the Steiners and The Road Warriors. I've been watching the tag team scene for a long time, and I'm telling you, these four are the best. True, Hawk and Animal may have seen better days, but this feud is a huge one. If the Steiners win, they deserve to be called the best ever. And if the Warriors win, well, would there be any doubt?"

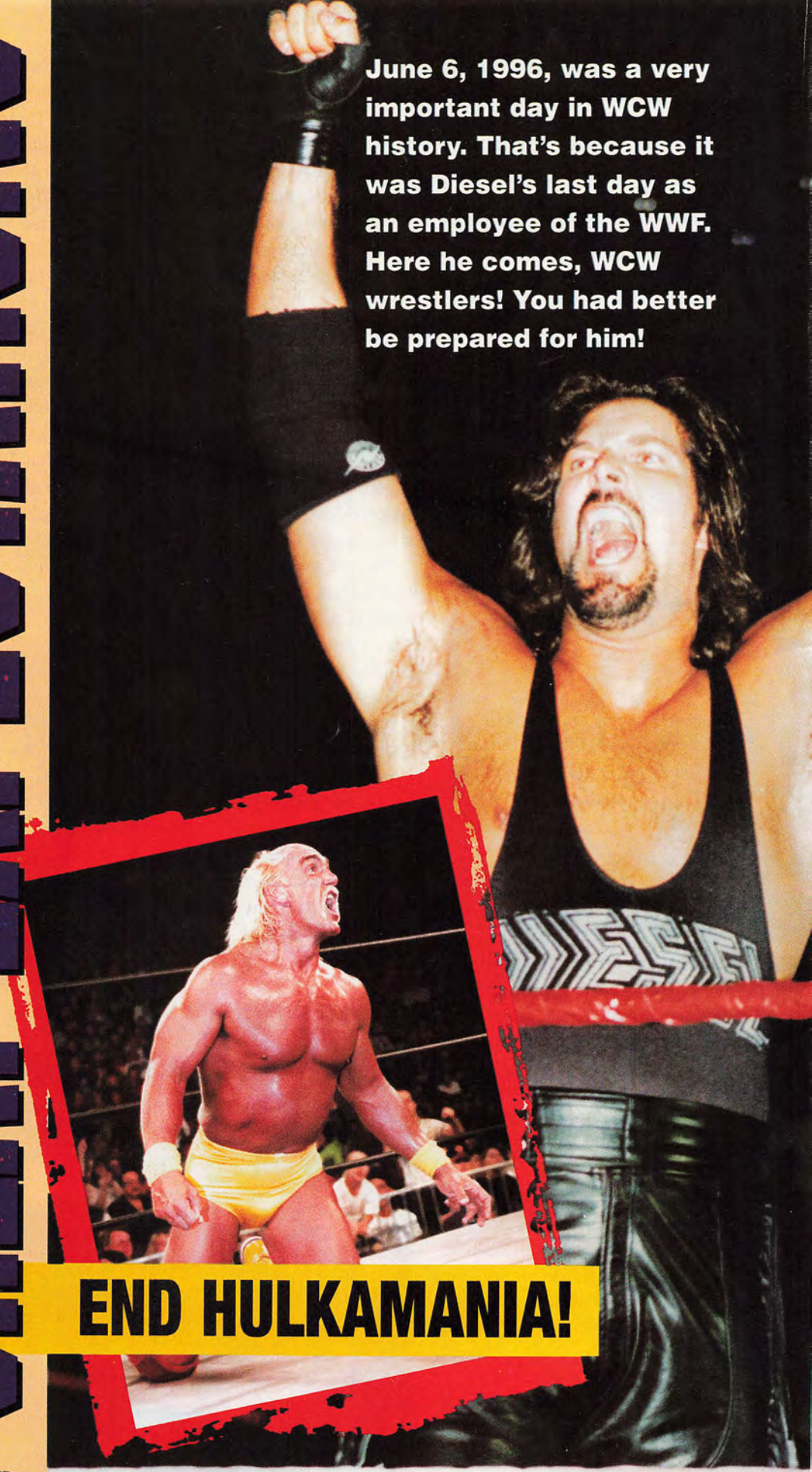
Who are we to doubt one "Living Legend"? Guess there's not much else to do but sit back, relax, and watch one titanic feud play itself out.

We can all be witness to greatness. □



Rick Steiner has taken the best Hawk has to offer (above), while his brother is all too familiar with Hawk's top-rope clothesline (left). The Steiners still aren't in awe of the Warriors, though. They saw Hawk and Animal will have to be at their best to even have a *chance* to beat them.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS



June 6, 1996, was a very important day in WCW history. That's because it was Diesel's last day as an employee of the WWF. Here he comes, WCW wrestlers! You had better be prepared for him!

END HULKAMANIA!

SEIZE THE GOLD

TOPPLE THE GIANT!

By Dave Rosenbaum

SLOW TRAIN COMING! Watch out WCW, Diesel's headed right this way, and the former WWF World champion doesn't plan on making a quiet arrival. He's blowing his horn and steamrolling down the tracks. Diesel's presence figures to make WCW a more interesting and colorful federation.

But what does he do next? WCW had a parade for Hulk Hogan's arrival. Diesel will have to create his own fanfare (and probably a new identity). There are certainly high expectations for the 7', 356-pound superstar, who left the WWF on bad terms with the fans.

Don't bother thanking us, Diesel. We've broken down your WCW agenda to three main objectives. That way, you'll always know where you stand.

END HULKAMANIA

During his nearly one-year reign as WWF World champion, Diesel proved himself an able spokesman for the federation. He charmed on TV talk shows, drew huge crowds at personal appear-

ances, and even received some inquiries from movie producers. "Dieselmania" had started to take over the WWF!

Losing the WWF World title to Bret Hart shouldn't have been such a major setback for Diesel, but it was because he got sidetracked with other things, then entered into contract negotiations with WCW. The fact remains that Diesel could and should be the star of any federation in which he wrestles ... including a federation that has Hulk Hogan.

But if "Dieselmania" is going to prevail, "Hulkamania's" going to have to die, and Diesel will have to kill it. In fact, we think Diesel has almost no choice but to go right after the "Hulkster." WCW promoters certainly wouldn't mind making this match, even if they might be reluctant to trumpet its relevance.

A mere victory wouldn't do. Diesel must score decisive victories over Hogan and end any doubt that he is today's superhuman superstar. But style will be as important as substance. Diesel must defeat Hogan the right way—within the bounds of the rules. He doesn't want to cripple Hogan. He merely wants to beat him and establish a relationship with WCW fans, something he never did when he wrestled in WCW before as Oz and Vinnie Vegas.

And after he does that, he can go on to step two.

TOPPLE THE GIANT

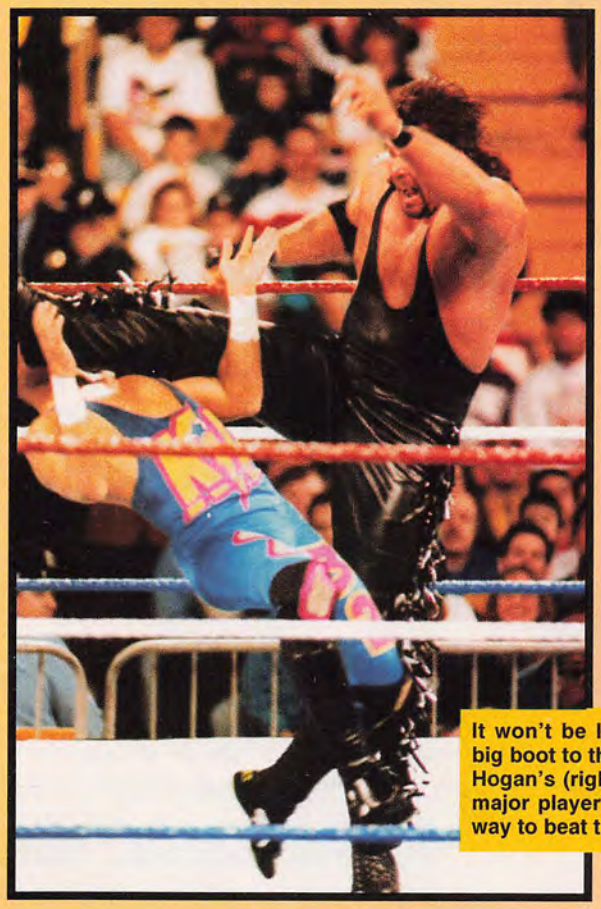
Defeating Hogan, no matter the means, would alienate Diesel from a large group of WCW fans. These Hogan supporters view any Hogan opponent as the enemy and would have a hard time siding with the "Hulkster's" conqueror. Diesel would need a way to get them on his side and could do so by felling The Giant.

Even though his choke-slam was neutralized by Hogan, The Giant is still the most feared wrestler in WCW, because he's the meanest and biggest. But let's face it: Who ever heard of a story with two giants? There's one giant in *Jack And The Beanstalk* and one giant in *Gulliver's Travels*. There's room for only one dominant big man.

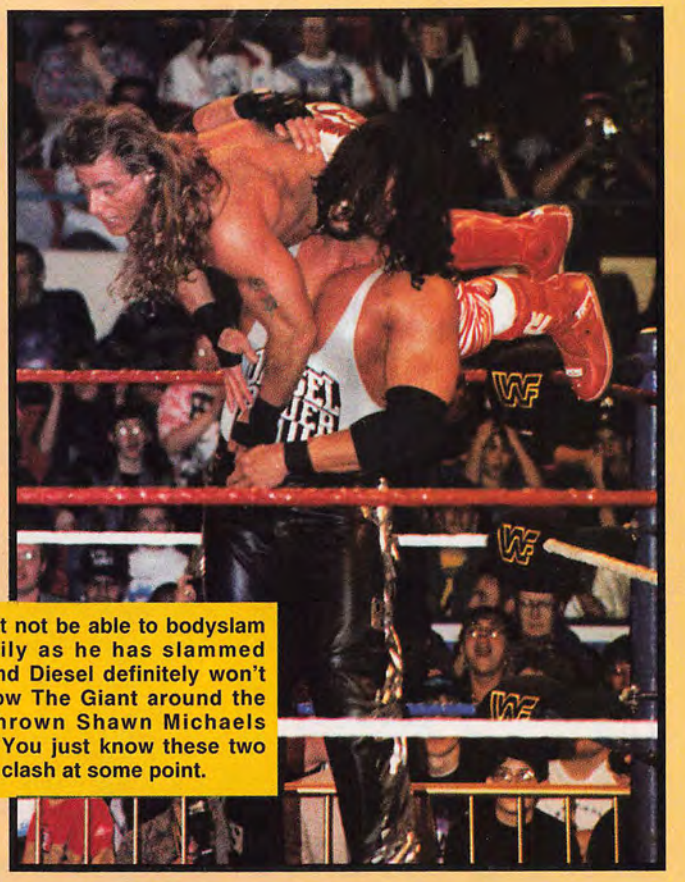
Is it The Giant, or is it Diesel?

Well, a decisive victory over Hogan would give Diesel something The Giant never had. Still, don't think for a second that The Giant wouldn't look at Diesel's presence as a personal threat to him. He'd realize his turf was being threatened and probably go after Diesel before Diesel went after him.

This battle of the giants would be a titanic confrontation with plenty of choke-slams and "jackknife" power bombs. The winner would lay claim as the greatest big man in all of wrestling. The loser might have to leave.



It won't be long before we see Diesel's big boot to the face (left) matched against Hogan's (right). To establish himself as a major player in WCW, Diesel must find a way to beat the "Hulkster."



The Giant might not be able to bodyslam Diesel as easily as he has slammed Hogan (left), and Diesel definitely won't be able to throw The Giant around the way he has thrown Shawn Michaels around (right). You just know these two behemoths will clash at some point.

If Diesel's experience and talent prevailed, as we think it could, he could go on to the final step of his WCW agenda ...

SEIZE THE GOLD

A wrestler can boast all he wants about how great he is, but there's really only one way he can prove it: by winning a world title belt. Just ask Shawn Michaels, Diesel's former friend and tag team partner.

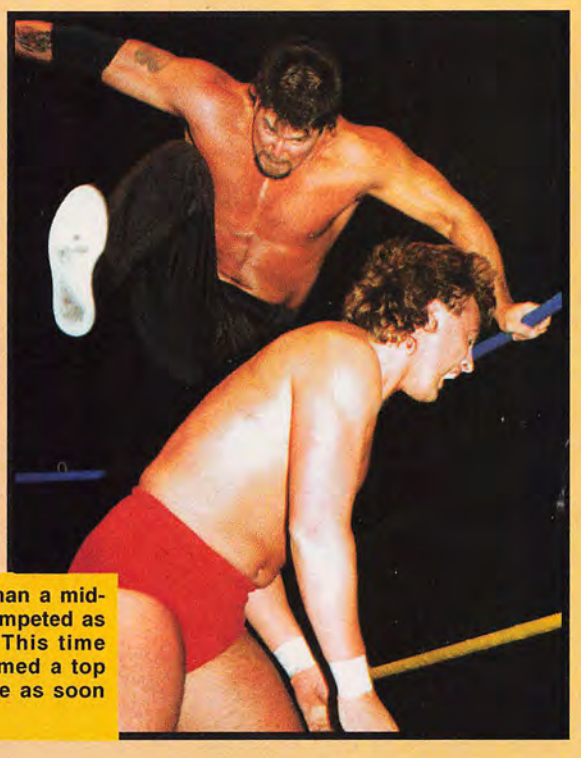
"You know, now that I'm WWF champion, I realize how ridiculous it was for me to think I was, like, an uncrowned champion," Michaels said. "If you're the best, you've got the belt. If you don't have the belt, you're not the best. You can talk and talk and talk, but there's only one solid piece of evidence: that gold belt."

If you have it, you can walk the walk. If you don't have it, you can only talk the talk. And talk is meaningless.

What would Hulk Hogan have been without all those WWF World titles? Just another boastful big man with a big mouth.

Whether the WCW World champion is Ric Flair, as it was at press time, or Sting, Randy Savage, Hogan, or Lex Luger, Diesel would have to finish his WCW mission by seizing the big belt. Any of those opponents would pose a severe test to "Big Daddy Cool," who is somewhat limited scientifically and relies heavily on his size and strength. A World title victory over the legendary Flair would certainly place Diesel among the all-time greats.

It would also get the fans squarely on Diesel's side and start a new era of "Dieselmania." □



Diesel was nothing more than a mid-carder in WCW when he competed as Vinnie Vegas in 1992-93. This time around, he'll likely be deemed a top contender to the World title as soon as he gets there.

Public Enemy: "They're Insane In The Membrane!"

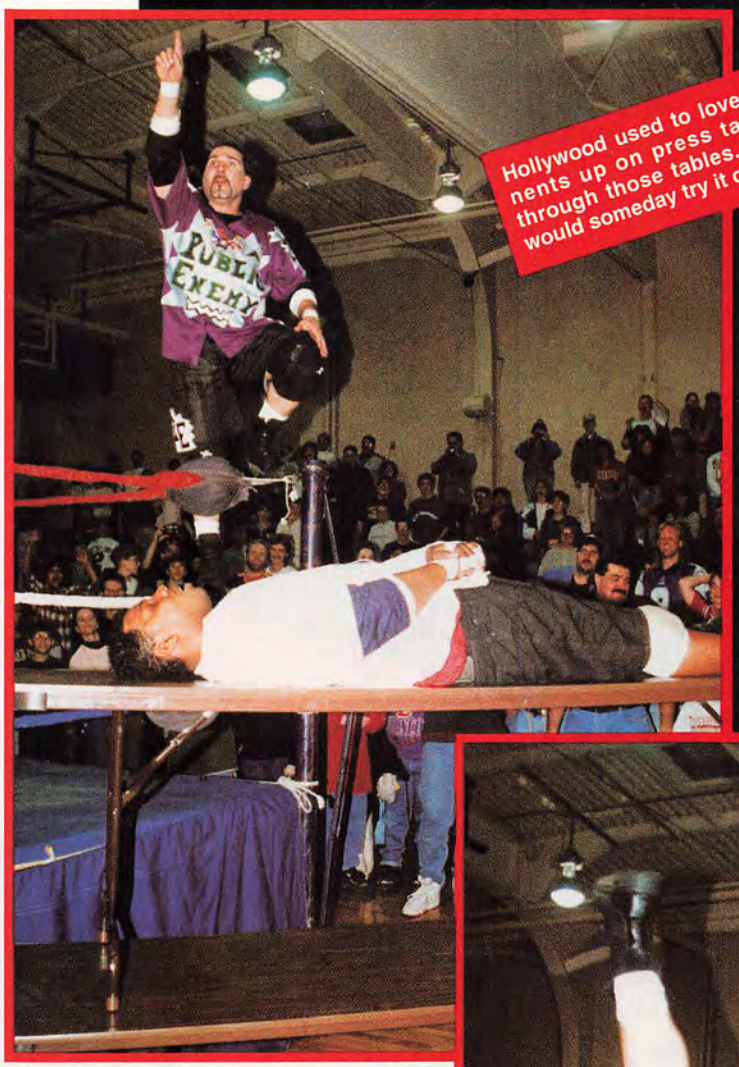
HAVOC INC. PAYS THE PRICE FOR HERO WORSHIP

It's one thing to respect an opposing team. It's another thing to worship them ... even after they just gave you the worst whipping of your life

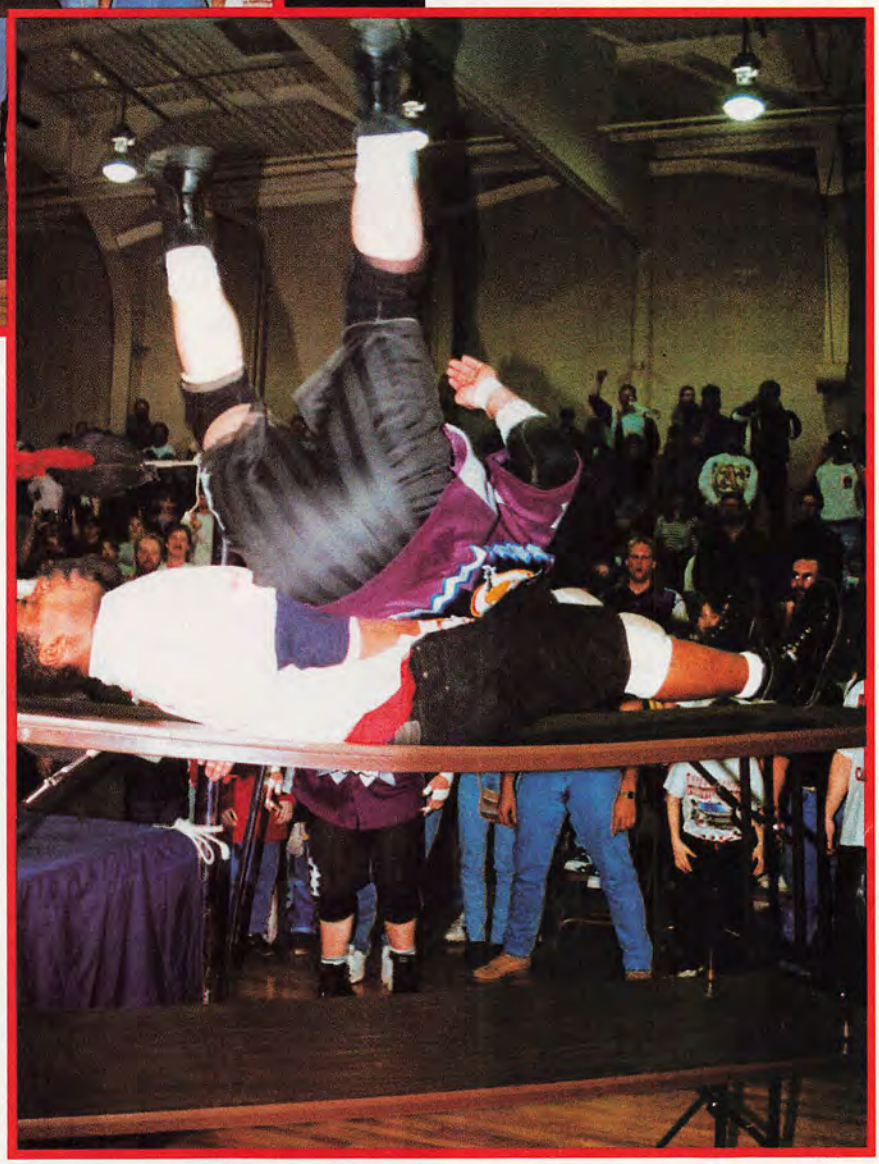
By Dave Rosenbaum

WE DON'T KNOW if Aretha Franklin's friend ever found out what R-E-S-P-E-C-T meant to her, but here's what it meant to Havoc Inc., a team that might have put Public Enemy a little too high on a pedestal.

Public Enemy's Johnny Grunge applies a rear chinlock on Havoc Inc.'s Hollywood as Hollywood grimaces in pain. The punishment PE dealt out to Havoc Inc. would get much, much worse, though.



Hollywood used to love watching Rocco Rock set opponents up on press tables, then send them crashing through those tables. He probably never thought Rock would someday try it on him!



"They're insane in the membrane!" said Rocco Rock of Public Enemy. "You gotta be a fool to get into that ring without a little bit of respect for your opponent, but there ain't no room in wrestling for hero worship, not when your heroes are going to kick the livin' crap out of you!"

Put even more succinctly by Public Enemy's Johnny Grunge, "They always dreamed of getting their butts kicked by Public Enemy. Well, they got their wish and then some!"

***

Two men named O'Dog and Hollywood fell in love about three years ago—and not with each other! The object of their desire was a wrestling tag team, Public Enemy.

But this is no Goldust story. It's about two wrestlers who saw a tag team and immediately said, "We've gotta be like them!" Rock and Grunge was the tag team O'Dog and Hollywood dreamed of being.

"You see those guys in the ring and know that's what tag team wrestling is supposed to be all about," Hollywood said. "You're talking about two wrestlers who had been around a while, but they never clicked until they made a team. They're fearless, and they're great wrestlers, too."

Hollywood, who checks in at 6'4", 275 pounds, and O'Dog,

whose vitals are 5'10", 180 pounds, had spent five years wrestling for independents in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Oregon. They are a streetfighting team that never could distinguish themselves from the other streetfighting teams and had settled into a life of making ends meet.

They were also fans. O'Dog and Hollywood were regularly in attendance at ECW matches in Philadelphia when Public Enemy wrestled. They'd sit at ringside, make mental notes of what they saw, and once even had the chance to shake their heroes' hands.

"I don't remember it," Grunge spat. "Not that it was worth remembering."

So enthralled was Havoc Inc. with PE that O'Dog and Hollywood sent a letter in care of WCW to Public Enemy that described in detail why Rock and Grunge were the greatest tag team in the world.

"We didn't see any harm in that!" O'Dog said.

"Stupidest thing anybody's ever done!" Grunge said. "It ticked us off. If some tag team's gonna copy us, they better get it right and just do it. Public Enemy asks no questions, we just kick butt. You do sissy stuff like writin' gushy letters and you're askin' for trouble from us. We had to teach them a lesson about what being tough is all about."

It's March 22 at an Int'l Pro Wrestling card in Lehighton, Pennsylvania, and Havoc Inc. is about to realize its dream of being in the same ring as Public Enemy. What they don't know is they're about to be destroyed by PE.

Since arriving in WCW late last year, Public Enemy has only occasionally competed on independent cards. But tonight, Grunge and Rock are wrestling in tiny Lehighton because they want the chance to violently meet the team that admires them so.

"We thought they'd like to shake our hands or maybe enjoy a few knees to the gut from us," Rock chortled. "Maybe they'd enjoy having their necks broken by the best tag team in the world. That'll give them something to tell their grandchildren about ... if they're still capable of having grandchildren!"

It's questionable after this one. A match that many thought would be totally one-sided ends up

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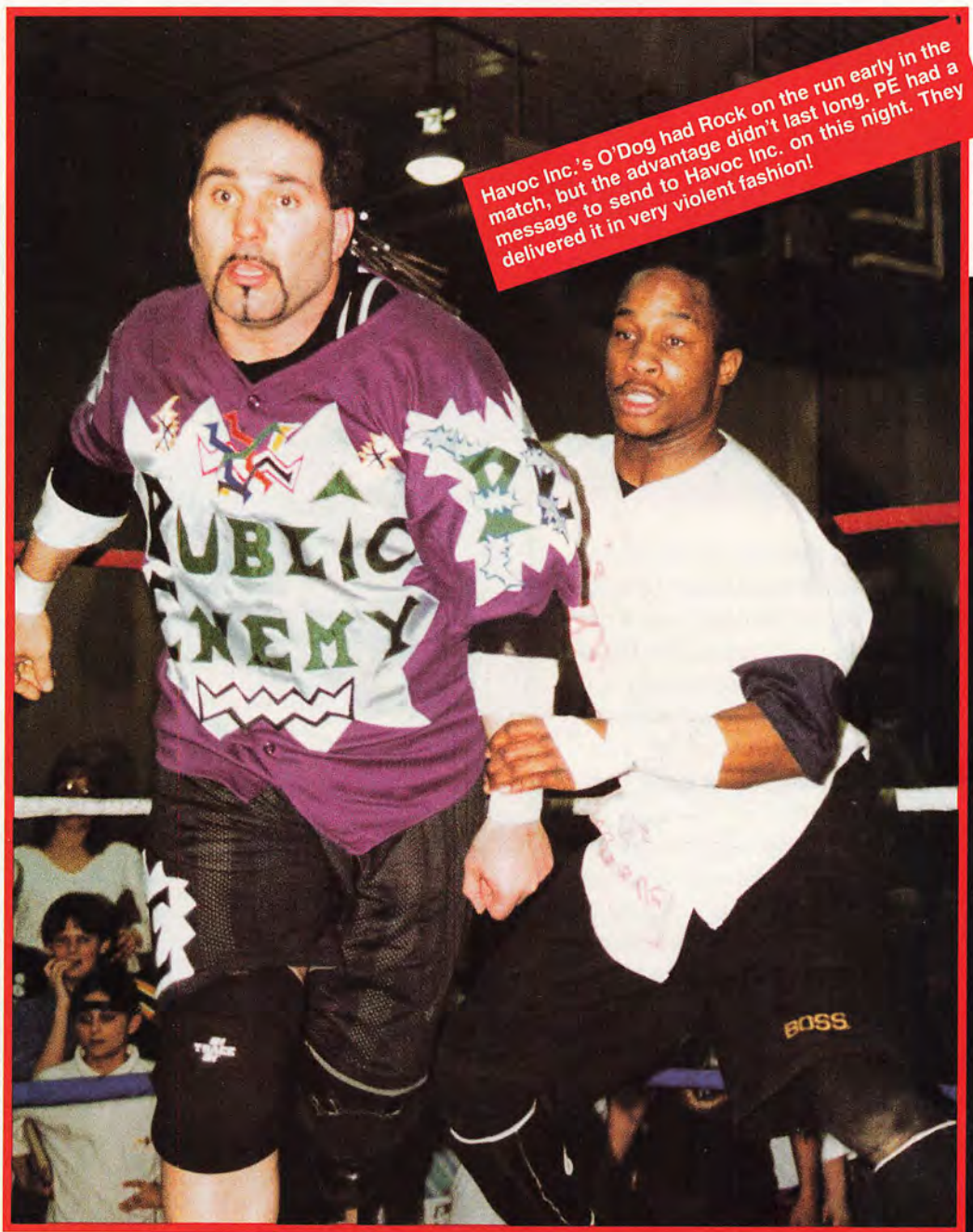
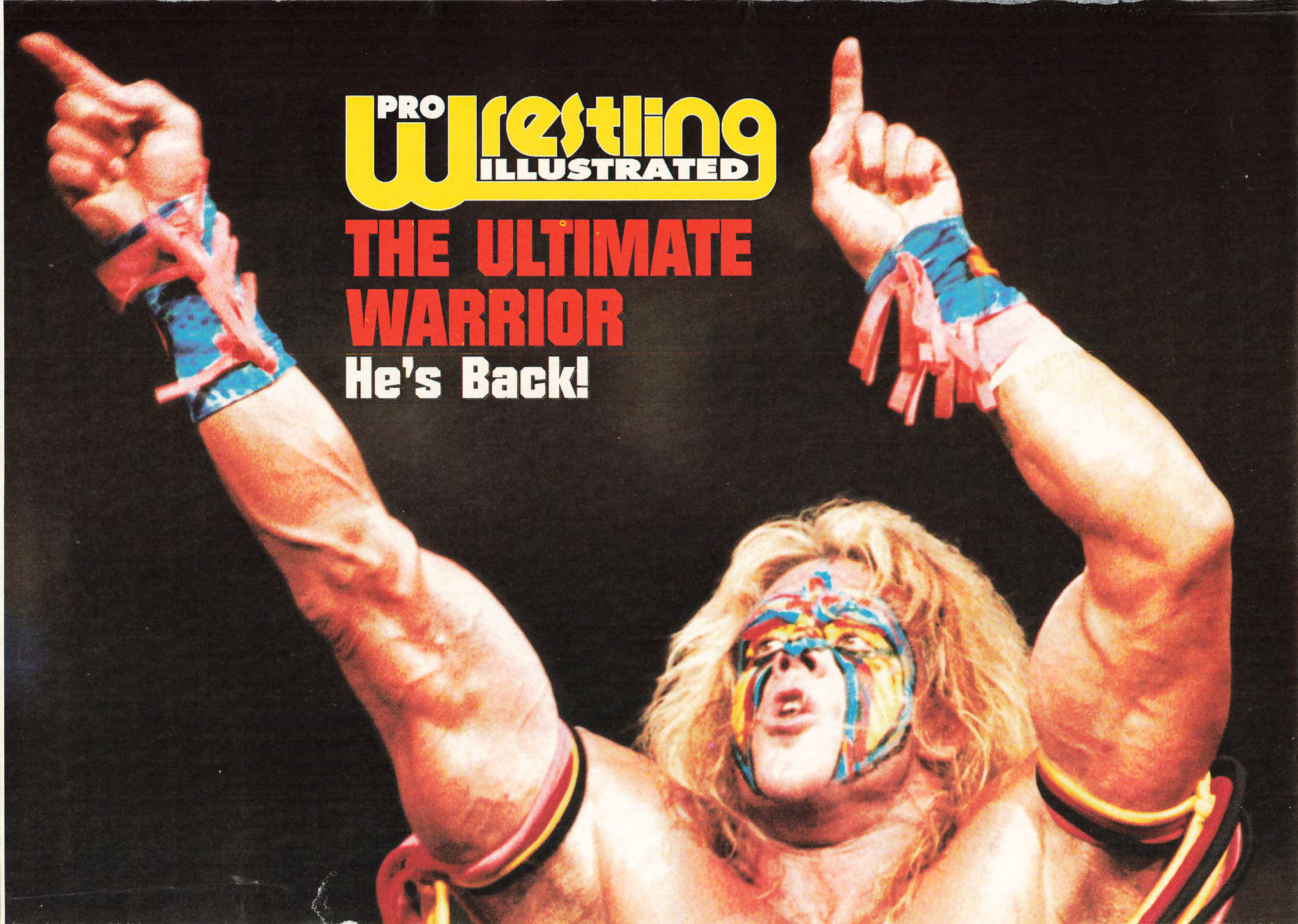


Havoc Inc.'s O'Dog had Rock on the run early in the match, but the advantage didn't last long. PE had a message to send to Havoc Inc. on this night. They delivered it in very violent fashion!

close-up:

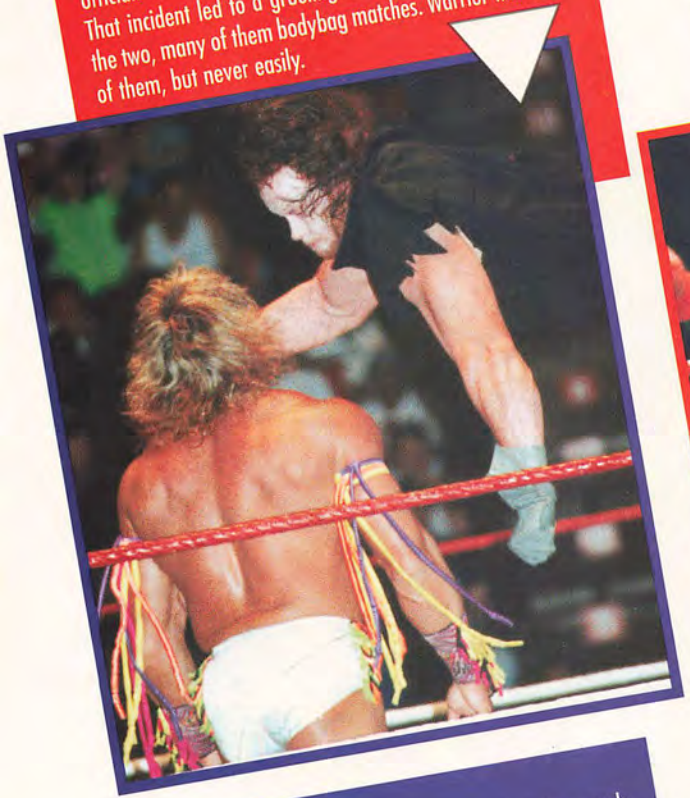
THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

THE EVER-EXCITING Ultimate Warrior is back in the WWF and helping to make it a more interesting place … The native of Queens, New York, met Sting, another young bodybuilder, while training for the Mr. America contest in California in early-1985 … Rick Bassman, a Los Angeles-area muscle maven, was forming a wrestling conglomerate called Powerteam U.S.A. at the time … The quartet of wrestlers combined physical power, awesome physiques, and an all-American attitude … Sting and Warrior joined Bassman's group … The Warrior was trained for a career in wrestling by former AWA World tag team champion Red Bastien … Warrior, then billed as Rock, was undefeated in singles matches and in tag team matches with Sting in California … The competition there wasn't challenging enough for them … Warrior and Sting went out on their own and formed a tag team called The Freedom Fighters in the Mid-Southern area … Became rulebreakers after breaking Phil Hickerson's arm with a timekeeper's bell … Later changed their name to The Blade Runners … Sting and Warrior began applying face paint before each match … They were patterning themselves after characters in the movie *The Blade Runner* … Won nearly all of their matches, but couldn't win the Mid-South tag team belts … Shortly after Eddie Gilbert became the team's manager, Warrior decided to strike out on his own; he went to the World Class area … Changed his name to The Dingo Warrior and took on Gary Hart as his manager … Wrestling in a brutal rulebreaking style, Warrior established himself with several victories over top World Class competition … Left Hart and joined Percy Pringle's stable, which already included Buzz Sawyer and Matt Borne … But Warrior didn't get along with Pringle, Sawyer, or Borne, and he was attacked by Sawyer and Borne after a six-man tag team match in Dallas … The fans sided with the Warrior, who went on a long winning streak and became the hottest young star in Texas … A lot of people took notice when the Warrior won a 20-man battle royal on October 27, 1986 … Feuded with Pringle's stable and injured Sawyer … Teamed with Lance Von Erich to win his first title, the World Class tag team championship, from Master Gee and Borne on November 17, 1986, in Fort Worth, Texas … Lost to Bob Bradley in the finals of the World Class Texas title tournament on January 12, 1987 … Came back to beat Bradley for that belt on February 2, 1987 … Eventually lost the title to Al Perez … Changed his name to The Ultimate Warrior and left World Class for the WWF … Started off against lower-level competition and slowly moved up … Fans loved him … Dominated former WWF and WCW World champion Harley Race in a series of matches in early-1988 … Beat Hercules Hernandez at WrestleMania IV … Startled observers by gorilla-pressing and cleanly pinning Hernandez … Took Brutus Beefcake's place in an Intercontinental title match against The Honky Tonk Man at SummerSlam '88 … Pinned Honky Tonk in 31 seconds for the title … Began feuding with Rick Rude and lost the I-C belt to him at WrestleMania V on April 2, 1989 … Regained the belt from Rude at SummerSlam '89 … Battled WWF World champion Hulk Hogan in a title vs. title match at WrestleMania VI in Toronto … Dealt Hogan his first clean pinfall loss in nine years and won the belt on April 1, 1990 … WWF President Jack Tunney refused to sanction a rematch, though, as he feared injury to both wrestlers; Warrior was forced to surrender the I-C belt after beating Hogan … In a World title defense against Sgt. Slaughter at the Royal Rumble on January 19, 1991, Warrior was blindsided by Randy Savage as he chased Sherri Martel away from the ring … Slaughter won the title in that match … Warrior demanded a match against Savage with the stipulation that the loser must retire … Warrior beat him at WrestleMania VII on March 24, 1991 … Feuded with The Undertaker in the summer of 1991 after Undertaker nearly killed him locking him in an airtight coffin … After teaming with Hogan to beat Slaughter, Col. Mustafa, and Gen. Adnan at SummerSlam '91, Warrior left the sport … Returned at WrestleMania VIII in Indianapolis and saved Hogan from an attack by Sid Justice and Papa Shango … Feuded with Shango and was victimized by his voodoo … Dominated the feud … Saved WWF World champion Savage from a double-team attack by Ric Flair and Curt Hennig … Savage said he didn't need help, and a new feud developed … Defeated Savage by countout at SummerSlam '92 in a match marred by interference from Hennig and Flair … When Flair and Hennig brutalized Savage, Warrior chased them back to the dressing room … Both men were cheered … Was named the number-one contender to Flair, who had won the World title from Savage … Teamed with Savage in matches against Money Inc. … Also teamed occasionally with Bret Hart … Disappeared from the sport again in late-1992 and returned to his ranch home in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he ran his gym … *Finally* returned to wrestling on July 22, 1995, on a National Wrestling Conference card in Las Vegas and defeated The Honky Tonk Man … Opened a wrestling school that fall … Went on a brief tour of Germany for the Catch Wrestling Association … Signed with the WWF in the spring of 1996 and made another return at WrestleMania XII in Anaheim, California … Received a rousing ovation and pinned Hunter Hearst Helmsley in 92 seconds … Was confronted by I-C champ Goldust during an interview one night later and ended up kayoing him … Has since defeated Goldust by countout several times … The Warrior's return figures to shake up the WWF Intercontinental and World heavyweight title scenes … One of wrestling's biggest and hottest stars is back!


PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
He's Back!

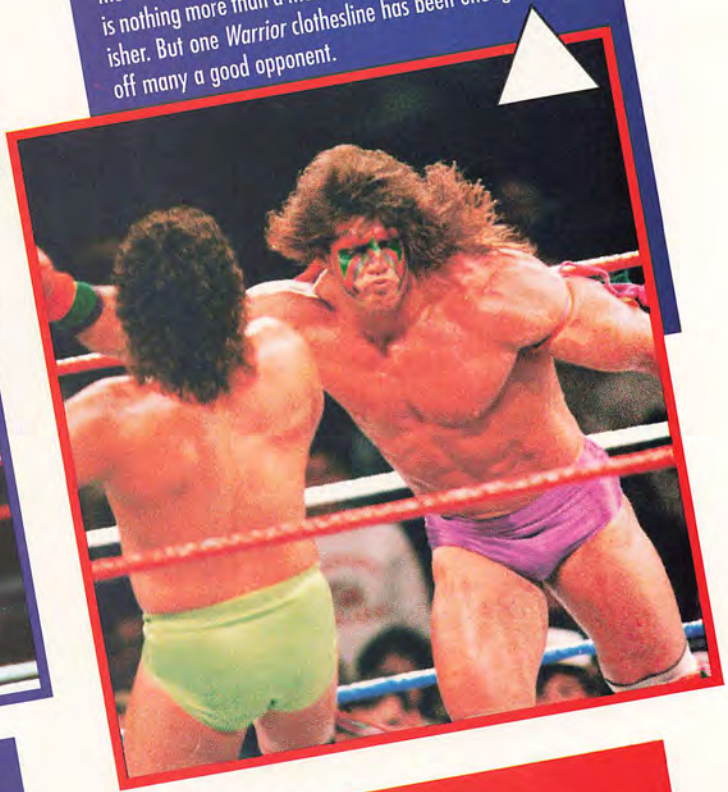
TOUGHEST OPPONENT

The Undertaker. It's not easy to forget the horrifying incident in 1991 in which Undertaker, then a rulebreaker, locked Warrior inside an airtight coffin. Fortunately, WWF officials were able to get him out before it was too late. That incident led to a grueling series of matches between the two, many of them bodybag matches. Warrior won a lot of them, but never easily.



FAVORITE MANEUVER

The clothesline. You could count on one hand the number of technical holds the Warrior knows, but his lack of scientific skills has never stopped him from succeeding. He makes the most of his raw power. For most wrestlers, a clothesline is nothing more than a move that can be used to set up a finisher. But one *Warrior* clothesline has been enough to finish off many a good opponent.



MOST HATED OPPONENT

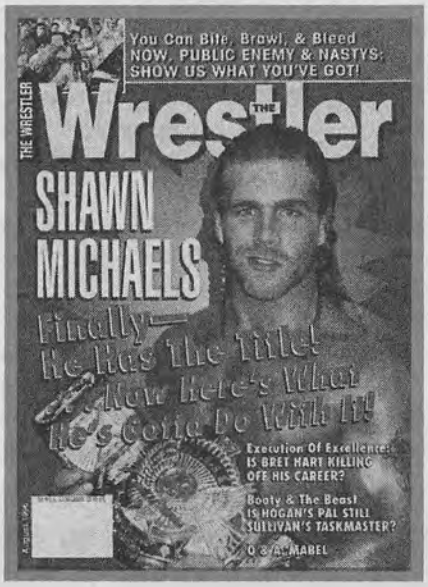
Rick Rude. If you believe certain rumors that have been making their way around the wrestling world, Mr. Rude could soon be back in wrestling. Warrior would love to see him return to the WWF, because he still feels a lot of animosity toward him. Rude ended his first Intercontinental title reign, and although Warrior ultimately regained the belt from him, he still hates the "Ravishing One."

GREATEST MATCH

vs. Hulk Hogan, April 1, 1990. Does it get any more exciting than this? Fan favorite vs. fan favorite. Intercontinental champion vs. WWF World champion. WrestleMania VI. More than 67,000 fans watching. Warrior dealt World champ Hogan his first clean pinfall loss in nearly nine years and won his only WWF World title. It's still one of the most talked-about matches in WWF history.

this month in...

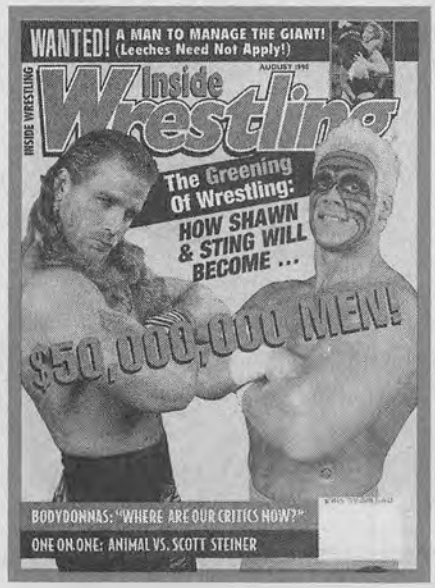
The Wrestler



WRESTLEMANIA XII was the most glorious of all WrestleManias for **SHAWN MICHAELS**. He won the title he had been pursuing for his entire career. But now that he has the WWF belt, we'll tell him what he must do with it … This year's WrestleMania wasn't a great one for **BRET HART**. The three-time former WWF champ is talking about cutting back his wrestling schedule. We think he could be killing his career … Would you trust **THE BOOTY MAN**? **HULK HOGAN** does. But we wonder if he might still be secretly working with **KEVIN SULLIVAN**

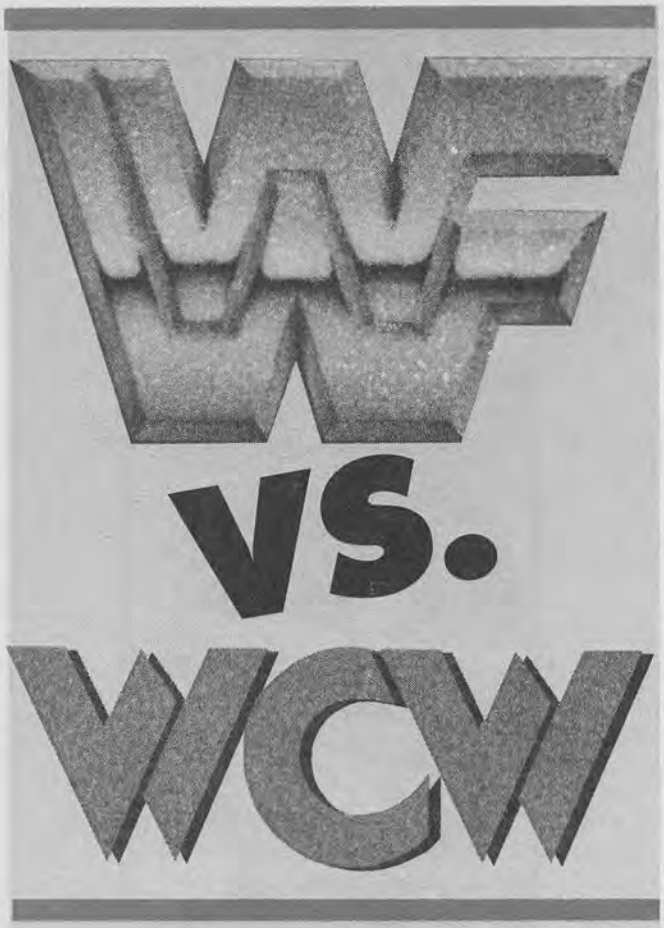
All this—and much more!—in the August 1996 issue of ***The Wrestler***

Inside Wrestling



STING and **SHAWN MICHAELS** are just now hitting their wrestling primes. They're so popular, charismatic, and exciting to watch. The next decade for both should be very financially rewarding. We'll show you exactly how we think they could become wrestling's first $50,000,000 men! … Does anyone know what's going on with **THE GIANT**? He looks confused. Can he truly trust **JIMMY HART**? It's high time he found himself a *manager*, not someone who will manipulate him! … Learn why we think it's imperative that **GOLDUST** throw **MARLENA** off his set now!

All this—and much more!—in the August 1996 issue of ***Inside Wrestling***



Each month, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will take a close look at the latest developments in the WWF-WCW wars. It's your chance to get a better handle on who's winning perhaps the most crucial battle in the sport's history!

WHEN THE NACHO MAN and The Huckster "died" during their "geriatric" match at WrestleMania XII, we thought a lot of the name-calling going on between the WWF and WCW would be buried right along with them. After all, how could the WWF poke fun at its rival with those two dead and buried?

And didn't we hear that WCW Senior Vice President Eric Bischoff was going to stop taking direct shots at the WWF on *WCW Monday Nitro*?

No way! This war is only getting started, folks. At the WWF's Slammy Awards ceremonies one night before WrestleMania XII, Ahmed Johnson, while accepting a Slammy as 1995 New Sensation of the Squared Circle, took a few shots at WCW, referring to the rival federation as "Wheel Chair Wrestling." Todd Pettengill, who hosted the show, wasn't quite so subtle in his ripping. During the show's opening musical medley, he said in the middle of a song, "Screw you, Ted Turner!"

Three weeks later on *Monday Night Raw*, Bret Hart spoke out for the first time since he lost the WWF title to Shawn Michaels and, though he never mentioned WCW by name, said he knew there was another wrestling organization out there that was throwing a lot of money around, but that he had no interest in wrestling anywhere but in the WWF. He also insinuated that those who are drawn to the other organization by offers of big money were greedy. Bischoff wasn't able to lure anymore big-name WWF stars over to WCW in April, though

THE RAW-NITRO WAR

Using the "early bird catches the worm" theory, TNT began its April 1 broadcast two minutes early, at 8:58 EST. Raw, running unopposed on April 8 (NBA playoffs on TNT) got the okay from USA to start at 8:57 and pulled in the best rating (4.7) since Raw and Nitro started going head-to-head last September. The previously taped April 29 Nitro was pushed up to 7:00 to accommodate the NBA and fared miserably (2.1).

It was a huge month for Raw and the WWF, which now leads Nitro and WCW in the Monday night war, 2.78-2.68.

Beginning this issue, we will replace the "share" category in our chart with total households (in millions). We are embarrassed to acknowledge that we miscalculated the number of households watching both Nitro and Raw in our previous installments. Rather than calculating the figure by using the total viewership penetration of TNT and the USA cable networks, we were using the larger total broadcast network figure.

	Date	Rating	Households	Main Event
RAW	4/1	2.9	1.97	Undertaker-Bradshaw
NITRO	4/1	2.8	1.87	Giant-Sting
RAW	4/8	4.7	3.12	Michaels-Lawler
NITRO	4/8	no show		
RAW	4/15	3.1	2.08	Goldust-Vega
NITRO	4/15	2.8	1.84	Luger/Sting-Flair/Giant
RAW	4/22	3.3	2.23	Mankind-Montoya
NITRO	4/22	2.7	1.79	Sting/Luger-Flair/Giant
RAW	4/29	3.9	2.64	Warrior-Yankem
NITRO	4/29	2.1	1.40	Giant-Flair

Johnny B. Badd officially jumped from WCW to the WWF as "Wildman" Marc Mero.

Bischoff knows other ways to hurt the rival WWF. At the beginning of the live April 22 *Nitro*, he gave away all of the results of that night's taped *Raw*. In addition, he referred to Goldust as an imitator of the famous drag queen RuPaul.

Bischoff also had some interesting things to say in interviews he did with the *Miami Herald* and *Charleston Post-Courier*. Here are a few key excerpts:

•Regarding his decision to give away those *Raw* results, Bischoff said he does it "because I enjoy it ... If one of the rules is, 'Don't ever acknowledge your competition, don't ever give away the results of a show that you're heads-up against,' then I'm going to break every rule."

•Regarding the chances of he and Vince McMahon settling the WWF-WCW feud by sitting down and talking face-to-face, he said, "Vince McMahon is an egomaniacal punk. And Vince McMahon's ego would not allow him to sit down ... Vince McMahon's ego won't ever allow him to admit that I'm the one kicking his [butt] every week. He's out there trying to paint this picture that Ted Turner is beating him up ... I don't think Vince McMahon's name flashes through Ted Turner's mind more than once a year or twice a year ... but Vince McMahon wants the world to believe that it's a battle between him and Ted Turner. I guess he figures he can draw more sympathy by saying he gets beat up by Ted Turner than by realizing he gets beat up by Eric Bischoff."

McMahon has yet to publicly respond to those remarks, but he did finally respond to WCW's decision to start *Nitro* a few minutes before 9 p.m. on Monday nights. The official start time for *Raw* is now 8:57 p.m. Eastern, which means the two Monday night wrestling shows begin within seconds of each other. At least for now, that is. Turner, Bischoff, and company could have a lot to say about that soon.

VOICE OF THE FANS

I don't think there would be a Monday night war at all if Eric Bischoff would have kept his mouth shut. He started all of this by giving away *Raw* results on *Nitro* and degrading the WWF constantly.

STERLING CALLAWAY
Fremont, NE

Everyone that degrades Hulk Hogan needs to realize that if it wasn't for Hogan, wrestling would have never gained the popularity it did during the 1980s. He singlehandedly built the WWF into the multimillion-dollar corporation that it is today. Now WCW wants to capitalize on that same greatness. I say if it can help generate interest in the sport, then more power to Hogan and WCW.

JEROME BITLER
Seattle, WA

I think this war has gone too far. I used to be a WWF fan, but in the last two or three years, their quality of wrestling has dropped tremendously. I think the WWF is wasting its time and money with the "Billionaire Ted" skits. This money would be better spent getting better talent. I don't watch wrestling for the flashy outfits; I want to see action. I would rather see another Hulk Hogan interview than see Shawn Michaels dance around the ring, pulling his pants down, any day of the week.

TODD LEEZER
Finleyville, PA

They Said It!

Assuming the Federal Trade Commission approves the merger of TBS and Time Warner, Ted Turner's title would be vice chairman. Turner, however, would own more of the company's stock than Chairman Gerald Levin. From David Lieberman's "Media" column in the April 12 edition of *USA Today:* "You didn't really think that Turner Broadcasting Chairman Ted Turner would be satisfied to be second banana to Time Warner CEO Gerald Levin, did you? Turner didn't build his cable network and movie empire just to sell it to Time Warner and take orders. He wouldn't do that for all the buffalo in Montana."

I think *Raw* is better than *Nitro* because different wrestlers wrestle almost every week. On the other hand, *Nitro* has Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Ric Flair, and Kevin Sullivan on almost every week. WCW is not even giving others in its great talent pool a chance. At least the WWF is willing to show off the lower-level guys to give them some exposure and experience.

JOHN SCHACHT
Knox, IN

I think there is one aspect that hasn't been factored into the war: pay-per-views. The WCW pay-per-view events are simply awful. One reason for this is that WCW has all of its big matches on *Nitro*, and that leaves slim pickings for pay-per-views. Who would pay $30 to see Randy Savage battle Ric Flair at SuperBrawl VI when the two have met dozens of times on free TV? Not me. The WWF presents good-to-great matches on *Raw*, then follows them up with topnotch, exciting pay-per-views. *PWI* should add pay-per-view buy rates to the TV ratings section to give readers a broader view of the war.

JIM BARTLETT
Chinook, MT

I used to be a loyal WWF fan, but I was very wrong. The WWF keeps making big mistakes. First mistake is letting Goldust exist. Another is making its programs more like movies than sports entertainment with all the vignettes that are shown. I am very pleased with WCW's programming, especially *Pro* and *Nitro*. They are quality programs, unlike the WWF's rehashed *Raw* clippings on *Action Zone*.

MICHAEL SCHILLACE
Auburn, NY

the steel cage

By Dave Rosenbaum

THE TIME HAS COME. I guess good things come to those who wait ... and wait ... and wait. I'm sure Craig Peters had nothing to do with this. In fact, I'm sure Stu Saks had very little to do with this. The conversation probably went something along the lines of ...

CHRIS BERNUCCA: I'm outta here.

SAKS: Goodbye.

DAVE LENKER: Okay, who's going to write Chris' *PWI* column?

PETERS: How about [anybody but Dave Rosenbaum]?

SAKS: How about you, Dave?

LENKER: I'm overworked, plus I'm taking over Craig's "In Focus" column next month.

SAKS: That's right.

PETERS: I'll do it if it will keep Rosenbaum from getting one ...

SAKS: What about Liz Hunter?

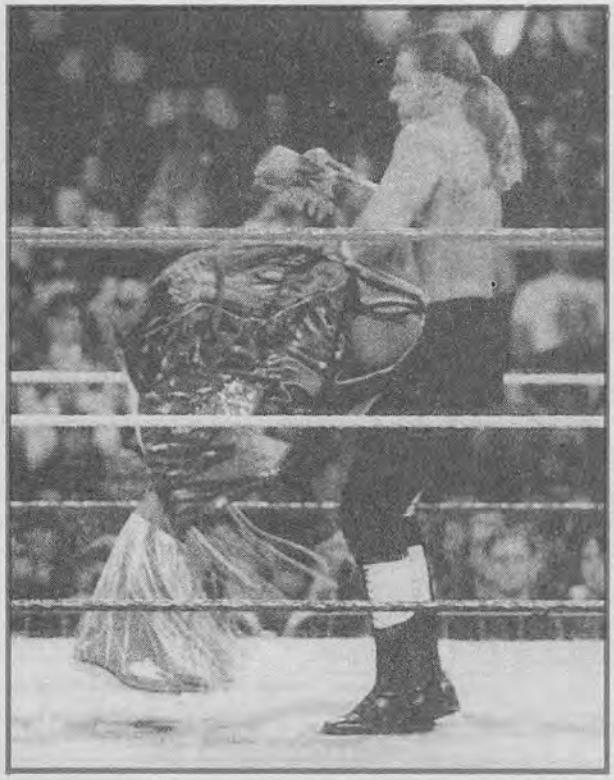
LENKER: Come on, how about Rosenbaum?

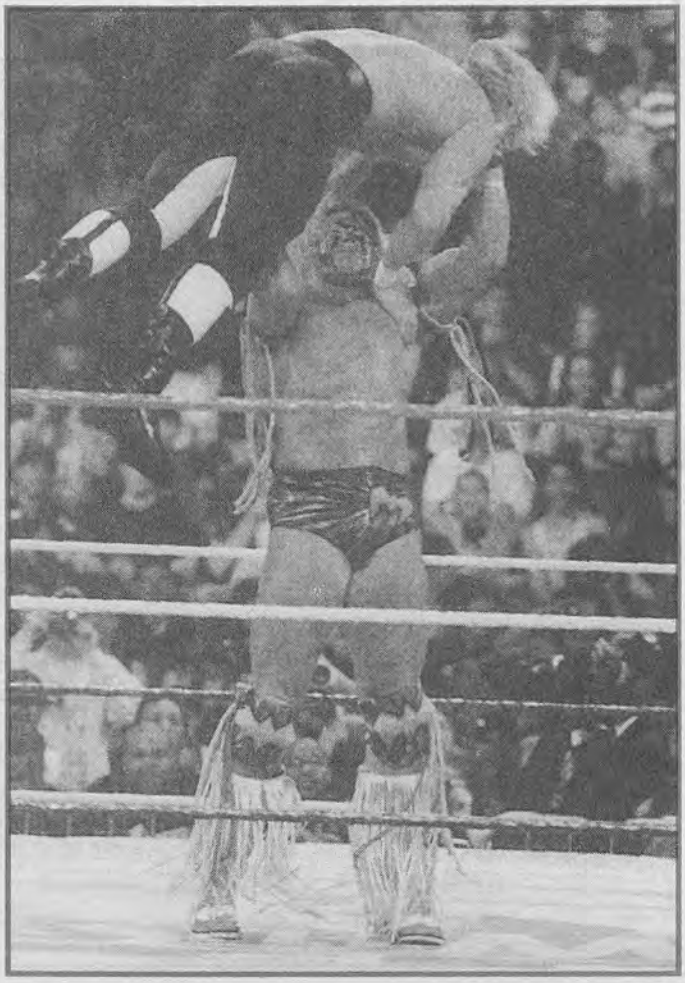
PETERS: Why?

SAKS: Okay. At least he never misses a deadline ... or at least he hasn't missed one this week.

The column you are about to read is truly mine. After 10 years of hard work, I'm finally getting my own space in the *Sports Illustrated* of wrestling magazines. Now Craig Peters can stop laughing. Besides, he has nothing to laugh about. He's editing a magazine for people who can't *Remember*.

The Ultimate Warrior was set up for Hunter Hearst Helmsley's "pedigree" (below) at WrestleMania XII, but he battled his way out of it and overpowered Helmsley for a victory (right). Don't count on this win being the first on the road toward another WWF title, says Dave Rosenbaum.





A clothesline might have been a great power move in 1990, but will it be enough to defeat current WWF World champion Shawn Michaels? Maybe Warrior should have learned a few new moves before returning to active competition.

THE STORAGE FACTOR. In real life, people get older and less agile, and their athletic ability deteriorates. Most people peak in their mid- to late-20s and then deteriorate. That's true in sports, too. Unless, of course, you retire for three or four years and then come back. According to the media and many fans, when you do that, you come back better than you ever were before.

It's the storage factor. Absence makes the mind grow fonder. When a person is in our faces all the time, we see all his defects. When he goes away, we remember the good things and forget the bad. Bad becomes good, good becomes great, great becomes spectacular. What was is always better than what is, especially when what was returns.

The Ultimate Warrior has returned.

The Warrior's comeback was such a major story that Bret Hart vs. Shawn Michaels became the sidebar for some fans at WrestleMania XII. Fans at Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, California, went crazy with hysterics when the Warrior emerged from the runway; they didn't stop cheering and screaming until their lungs gave out about five minutes later. It was a typical Warrior show: charging to the ring, huffing and puffing, blowing an inferior opponent's house down.

Now the Warrior has reportedly challenged Bret Hart to a match and is obviously working his way toward a showdown with Shawn Michaels for the WWF World title. To hear some fans talk, it's only a matter of time before the Warrior vanquishes all WWF opposition and wears the World belt once again.

Are you forgetting something? The Warrior hasn't wrestled full-time since 1992. In the time he has been gone, he aged about four years (simple mathematics, you know) and certainly lost a bit of his competitive and athletic edge. He has won exactly one WWF World title and held it for a little less than 10 months before losing the belt to Sgt. Slaughter, not exactly the second coming of Captain Marvel ... or Hulk Hogan.

Why should we believe that four years later, the Warrior has magically improved—despite hardly wrestling—and is now a better wrestler than Hart and Michaels, both of whom are light years superior to Slaughter? We are to believe this, of course, because we've forgotten about the Warrior's deficiencies.

Like ... he has no scientific wrestling skills.

Like ... he can't counterwrestle and is dead if he gets behind.

Like ... he has the stamina of Roseanne on a hot day in the New York City Marathon.

Like ... he tends to split the moment the going gets tough.

Of course he still has a spectacular physique, but just ask Hercules Hernandez and Sid Vicious what that'll get you. There's more to this sport than weightlifting and posing, so it's scary to think what Hart or Michaels would do to the Warrior, especially once they got him past the five-minute mark.

That's not to say the Warrior isn't capable of doing some damage in the WWF. The list of wrestlers he can beat is far longer than the list of those he can't beat, but those he can't beat will keep him from reaching the top. Besides, the Warrior obviously isn't too bright. A spokesman for the Warrior told *PWI Weekly* that a match against Bret Hart was one of the reasons he came back.

That reminds me of a story Matt Brock once told me about how he went down to Key West about 30 years ago and challenged Ernest Hemingway to a writing contest.

Just kidding.

If I was the Warrior, I'd say bring on The Undertaker, Yokozuna, Justin Bradshaw, Davey Boy Smith, and Gorilla Monsoon. Anybody but Michaels and Hart, the two men he definitely can't beat. □

win lose or draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR'S return to wrestling has been called the biggest story of the year so far. What I call it is the biggest "Who cares?"

While it's good to see somebody come in and administer a few well-deserved beatings on Goldust, I would rather see those beatings administered by a wrestler I can root for, not by someone with limited wrestling skills.

For those of you who wonder how I can accuse a former WWF World and Intercontinental champ of having limited skills, look at who he beat to win those titles. He captured the World belt from Hulk Hogan, and he won his first I-C title from The Honky Tonk Man. Okay, so Warrior did begin a second I-C title reign by defeating Rick Rude, but that is what is called a fluke.

Allow me to quote from a recent issue of *PWI Weekly*, in which a contest between the Warrior and Goldust was designated Match of the Week:

"The fans gave Warrior a tremendous ovation, and Goldust never had a chance. Clotheslines, forearm smashes, and a few other moves, and Goldust was in trouble."

"A few other moves?" ... "Goldust was in trouble?" If Goldust was in trouble, it's because he forgot for a few moments that he's Dustin Rhodes.

Wrestler or not, Warrior will be around for a while, mainly because "the fans gave Warrior a tremendous ovation." The man has always been extremely popular, and popularity goes a long way toward determining a wrestler's longevity. The Warrior didn't always make his reputation on the strength of a few grunts and clotheslines. Ten years ago, when he was part of Powerteam U.S.A. along with Sting, Warrior was more serious about the craft of wrestling. He didn't want to merely dominate; he wanted to dominate skillfully.

"Back then," said veteran Phil Hickerson, who once had his arm broken by Sting and Warrior in the Mid-Southern area, "you never would have imagined he'd turn out to be this total wildman who runs around the ring like he's possessed. He was a little more tuned in to himself."

This is what Warrior looks to do to most of his opponents now: press them over his head, then pin them as quickly as possible. His return to the WWF isn't necessarily good news, says Rodriguez.

Warrior also learned the virtues of teamwork. Tommy Rogers, who feuded with The Blade Runners as a member of The Fantastics, recalled that he was impressed with Warrior, who was then known as Rock.

"For a young guy," said Rogers, "he was really self-assured. I don't mean arrogant. A lot of rookies are arrogant. He was different. I don't think there was ever any doubt in his mind he and Sting were going to destroy Bobby [Fulton] and me, and let me tell you, they darn near did it!"

It all changed for

(Continued on page 46)

TAKE US ON!

#1: Big Ben

#2: Ace Stevens

#3: Jaeger van Dorn

#4: Bodybag Jones

#5: Wildfire Johnny Rage

#6: Eric Darkstrom

#7: Nook the Secret Weapon

#8: Derek Craven

#9: El Diablo Sanchez

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11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE AXEHANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. DDT
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE)

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT WRESTLER'S WEIGHT

SPECIAL GIMMICK OR DESCRIPTION OF WRESTLER

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU)

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

6_____ 7_____ 8_____ 9_____ 10_____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at right. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

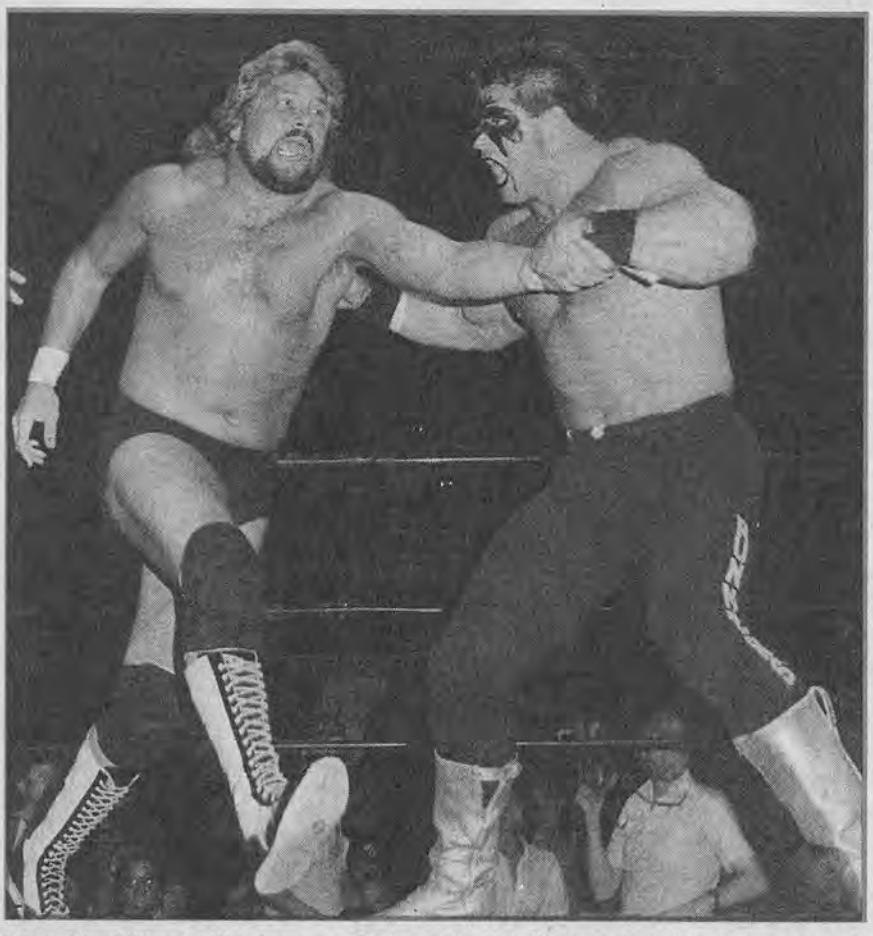
Finishing Hold: Create your custom final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces

FINISHING HOLD

Opponents: Check the numbers of the men you want your wrestler to go against from the 10 at the top. Remember to enclose $1.00 for each.

1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__ 6__ 7__ 8__ 9__ 10__

(Continued from page 44)



When The Ultimate Warrior competed against the likes of Ted DiBiase in his early days in the sport, he actually tried to outwrestle them. Those days, notes Andy Rodriguez, are long gone.

Warrior when he left Mid-South for World Class. He came into Texas as The Dingo Warrior. In Mid-South, he'd worn a little paint on his face; as Dingo, he painted on a mask. He adopted a ring attire that caused Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum to utter this memorable line:

"He has Shell No-Pest Strips hanging from his arms!"

That was the least of it. The Warrior abandoned control for chaos. He had to win, win big, and win now. His new attitude served him well, but he wasn't The Ultimate Warrior yet. At that point he wasn't any stranger than hundreds of guys in wrestling.

For the rest of the story, pull out your back issues. Dingo moved to the WWF, where he became The Ultimate Warrior. Then he left the WWF and became just plain Warrior. Now he's back as The Ultimate Warrior. He hasn't changed.

What happened to the man who once wrestled? Guess he was sacrificed to one of the many "gods" to whom he looks for inspiration. It annoys me that Warrior is seriously considering pursuing someone like Bret Hart. Actually, I hope they do meet. Bret will thrash this impostor. Then he'll eat breakfast.

Before I wrote this column, I decided to give Warrior another chance. I was hoping that maybe he'd prove to me he deserved all this acclaim. I got a ringside seat to watch him take on Goldust. I figured it was worth it for the entertainment value alone.

Goldust is strange, too, but at least he still wrestles. Warrior had his chance to test his grappling skills against one of the best. He didn't take the test. He didn't even put his name on the paper. He wrestled like The Ultimate Warrior.

He also defeated the Intercontinental champion by countout, which is a good reason for him not to change his style. He'll probably win Goldust's belt soon. That's why Warrior was ranked number three in the federation after that victory, right behind World champion Shawn Michaels and Goldust. The editors determined he had earned that lofty rating. I am not a member of the ratings board.

Whatever I think of him, I'm betting that Warrior will be around for a while. I wouldn't be surprised if he won the World title again. Then we'd all watch Vince McMahon bill him as a member of the Hogan-less "New Generation," although Warrior fled the WWF when it was dominated by the older generation.

The Warrior will thrive. There are, have been, and will be a lot of odd characters in this sport who can't wrestle yet win championships, but none has been as influential as Warrior. That is a shame, because just as the smaller, scientific grapplers finally are beginning to win the respect and cheers they've deserved for so long, the Warrior may drag pro wrestling back to the era of the muscleheads. He has the power to do that.

Maybe it won't be that bad. Maybe Ted Turner will lure Warrior to WCW. Maybe then The Giant will kick him around and send him back to the independent circuit and out of the big-time spotlight.

Yeah, maybe. I hope. □

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Stan Hansen won the AWA World title by defeating which champion?
1) Rick Martel
2) Nick Bockwinkel
3) Curt Hennig
4) Verne Gagne

The largest crowd ever to witness a pro wrestling show (190,000) was in what city?
1) London, England
2) Toronto, Ontario
3) Pyongyang, North Korea
4) Tokyo, Japan

True or False: Hulk Hogan is the only wrestler to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated
1) True
2) False

Which of the following cities did NOT host a portion of WrestleMania II?
1) Chicago, Illinois
2) Atlantic City, New Jersey
3) Uniondale, New York
4) Los Angeles, California

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Call as often as you like. The contest begins April 1, 1996 and runs through September 1, 1996. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is $1.49 per minute in the United States, $1.99 in Canada, and 49p (39p cheap rate) in the United Kingdom. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333, USA. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one $100* winner. (*Or for U.K. winners, the equivalent in pounds sterling at the time the winner is selected.) From April 1, 1996, until September 1, 1996, a total of 18 PWI six-issue subscriptions (retail value $15 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.

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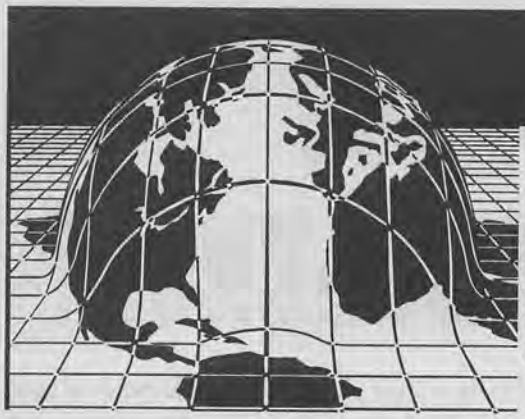


arena reports

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM—*WCW Saturday Night* taping at the Boutwell Auditorium (highlights): **The Giant** & **Ric Flair** beat **Marcus Bagwell** & **Scotty Riggs** ... **Eddy Guerrero** beat **Mr. J.L.** ... **Chris Benoit** beat **Dave Sullivan** ... **The Belfast Bruiser** beat **Lord Steven Regal** by disqualification ... **Col. Robert Parker** beat **Madusa** by disqualification ... **Brad Armstrong** beat **Dean Malenko** ... **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** & **The Nasty Boys** wrestled **The Road Warriors** & **Public Enemy** to a no-contest ... **Ric Flair** & **Chris Benoit** beat **Pat Tanaka** & **Steve Doll**.
(04-10-96)

—Marc Bennett

CALIFORNIA

BAKERSFIELD—Slammers Wrestling Federation at Strongbow Stadium: **Tyrone Little** beat **Kano the Islander** ... **Jesus Zapata** beat **Buddy West** ... **Hombre de Oro** beat **Dynamite D** ... **Bruce Beaudine** defeated heavyweight champion **Jeff Lindberg** to win the title ... **El Toro Bravo** & **Movie Star Mike** beat tag team champions **Kano the Islander** & **The Samoan Kid** to win the belts.
(04-11-96)

—Gregg John

BAKERSFIELD—Slammers Wrestling Federation at Strongbow Stadium: Heavyweight champion **Jeff Lindberg** defeated **El Toro Bravo** in a lumberjack match ... **Movie Star Mike** wrestled **The Samoan Kid** to a double-disqualification ... **Hombre De Oro** beat **Tyrone "Tiny" Little** in a falls-count-anywhere match ... **Bruce Beaudine** beat **Verne Langdon** by disqualification ... **Buddy West** beat **Jesus Zapata**.
(03-28-96)

—Gregg John

ANAHEIM—WWF WrestleMania XII pay-per-view at Arrowhead Pond: **Skip** & **Zip** (with **Sunny**) defeated **Henry** & **Phineas Godwinn** (with **Hillbilly Jim**) in the finals of the tournament for the vacant WWF World tag team title when Skip pinned Phineas at 5:23 ... **Owen Hart**, **Davey Boy Smith**, & **Big Van Vader** (with **Jim Cornette**) defeated **Ahmed Johnson**, **Jake Roberts**, & **Yokozuna** when Vader pinned Roberts at 13:09 ... **Roddy Piper** defeated **Goldust** in a Hollywood backlot brawl ... **"Stone Cold" Steve Austin** (with **Ted DiBiase**) defeated **Savio Vega** at 10:09 ... **The Ultimate Warrior** pinned **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** at 1:38 ... **The Undertaker** (with **Paul Bearer**) pinned **Diesel** at 16:44 ... **Shawn Michaels** beat World champion **Bret Hart**, one fall to none, in 61:52 of their "Iron Man" match to win the belt.
(03-31-96)

—Doug Green

ILLINOIS

FLORA—Bad to the Bone Wrestling at the VFW: **The California Kid** pinned **The Rock 'n' Roll Rebel** ... **The War Machine** defeated **The Bodysnatcher** ... **Luna Vachon** pinned **Lady Vendetta** ... **Vampire Warrior** beat **Trash Loseagin** ... **Ian Rotten** beat **Madman Pondo** in a "taipei death" match.
(04-03-96)

—Robert Berchman

GEORGIA

WHITE—Powerslam Wrestling at the City Gym: **Sgt. Poison** beat **The Rebel Outlaw** ... **Big Huff** beat **Super Assassin III** ... **Kenny Arden** beat **Lawman II** ... **Cain** & **Buzz Saw** defeated **The Kissing Bandit** & **Bubba Humphries** ... **Rob McBride** wrestled **Tim Dyer** to a double-countout.
(04-13-96)

—Frank Kilker

ROSSVILLE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: **The Outpatient** defeated **Jimmy Sharpe** by disqualification ... **Roger Sartain** & **Joel Travis** defeated **Rick Justice** & **Woody Woodchuck** ... **Scott James**, **Terry Watkins**, & **Richie Dye** defeated **Frankie Lee**, **Mr. Pain**, & **Johnny Quaz** ... **Randy Watkins** defeated **Jimmy Sharpe** by disqualification.
(04-12-96)

—Bill Needham

BREMEN—GIWA at the GIWA Arena: **Kenny Dees** wrestled to a time-limit draw with **The Henchman** ... **Bucky Siegler** defeated **Rikki Rhodes** ... **Mr. Olympia** beat **Alan Lankford** ... **Billy Knight** beat **Big Bo LaDuc** by disqualification ... **Brad**, **Scott**, & **Steve Armstrong** beat **Marc Ash**, **Cody Gunn**, & **Rob McBride** ... **Ken Timbs** beat **Pretty Boy Floyd** in a lumberjack match.
(03-30-96)

—Marcus Watkins

ROME—North Georgia Wrestling Alliance at the High School: **Lee Thomas** beat **Tommy Taylor** ... **Mike Golden**, **Jason Valentine**, & **Lee Thomas** wrestled **Max Steele** and **John** & **Kenny Arden** to a double-disqualification ... **Ken** & **John Arden** beat **Steve Lawler** & **Bubba Humphries** ... **Scott Prather** beat **Mike Golden**.
(03-29-96)

—Gerald Omana

ROME—*WCW Saturday Night* taping at the Forum: TV champion **Lex Luger** beat **The Giant** by disqualification ... **Arn Anderson** beat **Steve Armstrong** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** beat **David Taylor** ... **The Booty Man** defeated **Max Muscle** ... **Eddy Guerrero** defeated **Devon Storm** ... **Harlem Heat** defeated **State Patrol** ... TV champion **Lex Luger** defeated **The Shark** ... U.S. champion **Konnan** beat **Pat Tanaka** ... **The Belfast Bruiser** beat **Bobby Eaton** ... **The Giant** beat **Bubba Rogers** ... **Marcus Bagwell** & **Scotty Riggs** beat **Meng** & **The Barbarian** ... **Sting** defeated **Hugh Morris** ... World champion **Ric Flair** defeated **Dick Slater** ... U.S. champ **Konnan** beat **Devon Storm**.
(03-27-96)

—Bernadette Meyers

MARYLAND

ESSEX—Mid-Eastern Wrestling Federation at the MEWF Arena: **Cueball Carmichael** beat **Johnny Desire** ... **Hack Myers** beat **The Bodacious Pretty Boy** ... **Mad Dog O'Malley** beat **Bob Starr** in a dogpound match ... **Quinn Nash** beat **Adam Flash** ... **Lucifer** beat **The Cat Burglar** ... **Earl the Pearl** defeated **Mark Shrader** to win the vacant light heavyweight title ... **Johnny Gunn** won a triangle match by beating **Axl Rotten** and **Corporal Punishment** ... **Boo Bradley** beat **Bill Wilde** ... **Ricky Blues** beat **Steve Corino** ... **The Bad Crew** & **The Booty Man** beat **Darkside** & **Damien Kane** (with **Lady Alexandra**) ... Heavyweight champion **Johnny Gunn** wrestled **Jim Neidhart** to a no-contest.
(04-14-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

MASSACHUSSETTS

MIDDLEBORO—IWF at the High School: **Brian Walsh** beat **Mike Hollow** ... **Joanie Lee** & **Steve King** defeated **Violet Flame** & **Violence T. Flame** ... **Jet Scream** beat **The Outpatient** ... **Rick Fuller** beat **Tim McNeany** ... **Smooth Operator** beat **Antoine Roy** by disqualification ... **Fatu** beat **Bob Backlund**.
(04-13-96)

—George Cornell

SALISBURY—Century Wrestling Alliance at the CWA Arena: **"Real Deal" Joel Davis** defeated lightweight champion **El Mascarado** by countout ... **The Omega** beat **Johnny Angel** ... **Sonny C** pinned **Heff** ... **Paul Zine** beat **Skull** by submission ... **Joel Davis** beat **Big City Mike** by decision ... **The Prankster** defeated **Johnny Angel**

by disqualification ... **The Buddha** & **Skull** beat **The Lanno Brothers** by disqualification ... TV champion **Vic Steamboat** beat **The Pink Assassin**.
(04-13-96)

—Rich Palladino

SALISBURY—Century Wrestling Alliance at the CWA Arena: **"Prime Time" Paul Zine** beat **The Omega** ... **Sonny C** (with **Heff**) beat **"Heavenly" Johnny Angel** ... **The Prankster** beat **Skull** ... **The Buddha** wrestled **"Superstar" Mike Lanno** to a no-contest ... **Big City Mike** beat **Dick Lanno** ... **The Pink Assassin** beat lightweight champion **El Mascarado** by disqualification ... TV champion **Vic Steamboat** beat **Knuckles Nelson** in a lumberjack match.
(04-06-96)

—Rich Palladino

MICHIGAN

WARREN—Motor City Wrestling at the YMCA Gym: **"Punisher" Rock Stevens** defeated **SuperKey I** ... Championship Wrestling Federation tag team champions **The Outlaws** defeated Border Cities Wrestling tag team champions **Los Rudos** by disqualification in a match in which only the MCW belts were at stake ... **Machine Gun Kelly** defeated **Rock Stevens** to win the vacant CWF title ... **Tommy Starr** wrestled **Skull Ganz** to a draw ... **Rob Avram** defeated **Mike Legacy** ... **Killer Kanareck** (with **The Gypsy**) beat **Kamikaze Calhoun** ... **Death Dealer** defeated **Knighthawk**.
(04-13-96)

—Jeff Paulsen

NEW JERSEY

CLEMENTON—World Wrestling Alliance at The Monster Factory: **The Power Destroyer** defeated **Chuck Sloan** ... **Ubas** wrestled **Gus the Greek** (with **Victoria Secrets**) to a draw ... Light heavyweight champion **Stryker** beat **Tricky Nicky** ... **Pat Cahill** (with **The Boy Next Door**) defeated **Billy Dreamer** ... **The Chain Gang** & **Johnny Chicago** beat **Alley Oop**, **David Dutch**, & **The Mummy** ... Heavyweight champion **"Jungle" Jim McPherson** beat NWA North American champion **Tommy Cairo** by disqualification.
(04-06-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

YARDVILLE—NWA at Imaginations: **Cousin Luke** beat **H.D. Ryder** by disqualification ... **Rick Ratchet** & **Donnie B.** beat **Twiggy Ramirez** & **Madonna Wayne Gacy** ... **Frankie "Third Degree" Burns** beat **Little Akeem** ... **Bad Attitude** beat **The Greek Connection** ... **"Adorable" Adrian Hall** (with **Sir Style**) beat **Mr. Puerto Rico** ... Heavyweight champion **Dan Severn** pinned **Ghetto Blaster** ... North American champion **Tommy Cairo** wrestled **Devon Storm** to a double-disqualification ... **Reckless Youth** & **D-Lo Brown** beat **Ace Darling** & **The Inferno Kid**.
(03-30-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

NEW YORK

REGO PARK—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the Lost Battalion Hall: **J.T. Smith** & **Damien Stone** beat **Bubba Ray** & **Dick Dudley** by disqualification ... **Hack Myers** beat **Billy Black** ... Tag team champions **The Eliminators** beat **Joel Hartgood** & **El Puerto Ricano** ... Heavyweight champion **Raven** beat **Damian 666** ... **Shane Douglas** beat **Axl Rotten** ... **Taz** beat **Chris Jericho** ... **Brian Lee** & **The Bruise Brothers** beat **Tommy Dreamer** & **The Pit Bulls** ... **Sabu** beat **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **The Gangstas** won a three-way match by beating **The Sandman** & **2 Cold Scorpio** and **The Headhunters**.
(04-13-96)

—Jake Armando

NORTH CAROLINA

GREENSBORO—Alternative Championship Wrestling at Glenn Wood Rec Center: **Jake Spade** beat **Atomic Freddie** ... **Pat Friday** pinned **Dave Blanchard** ... **Dale Porter** wrestled **Mr. Excellence** to a draw ... **Rick Link** wrestled **Dream Warrior II** to a double-disqualification ... Tag team champions **The Hollywood Dream Team** defeated **Jackie** & **Bobby Fulton** in a steel cage match ... **Ricky Morton** & **The Terminators** beat **The East Coast Connection** in a cage match ... Heavyweight champion **Bone Crusher** beat **Wahoo McDaniel** in a cage match.
(04-13-96)

—Adam Derian & Brian Powell

PFAFFTOWN—AIWF at the West Central Community Center: **Chris Windham** beat **King Cobra** ... **Rick Luster** beat **Sam Hain** ... **The Intimidator** & **Dynamite Doug** beat **Major Breakinridge** & **Johnny Reb** ... U.S. champion **Jumpin' Jimmy** beat **"Ghostrider" Jackie Anderson** ... **The Tennessee Violence Authority** wrestled **Wild Walter** & **David O** to a double-countout ... **Brian Danzig** & **Rick Deezel** beat tag team champions **Major Havoc** & **Superstar** to win the belts.
(04-13-96)

—Dean Puckett

MONROE—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Baby Huey** won an eight-man battle royal, last eliminating **The Assassin** ... Heavyweight champion **George South** beat **Sweet Brown Sugar** ... **David Jericho** & **Italian Stallion** defeated tag team champions **Terry Austin** & **Austin Steele** by disqualification ... **Star Ryder** beat **The Equalizer** ... **Carolina Dreamer** beat **Rick Savage** ... **Baby Huey**, **Tyrone Knox**, & **Italian Stallion** defeated **Terry Austin**, **George South**, & **Austin Steele** in a bunkhouse barbed-wire match.
(04-12-96)

—Brock Chandler

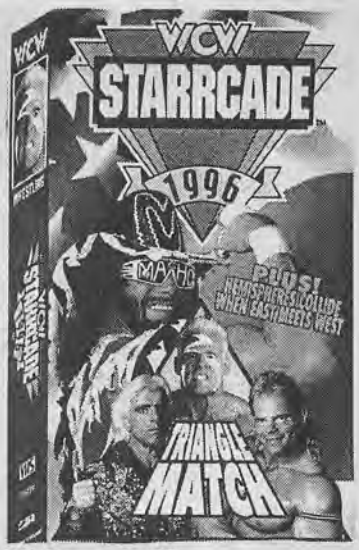
CONCORD—Carolina Championship Wrestling at the Hartsell School Gym: **Cruel Connection II** defeated **Will From The Hill** ... **One Man Posse** wrestled **Leon El Gigante** to a double-countout ... **Beastmaster**, **The Rebel**, & **David Osbourne** beat **The Gladiator**, **Nick of Time**, & **Tim Jackson** ... **Brother Pain** & **The Cannon** defeated **The Ringlords** ... **David Isley** & **The Big Cheese** beat **L.A. Stephens** & **Kevin Kirby** ... **Wahoo McDaniel** beat **Big Slam Vader** by disqualification ... **Gary Royal** beat **Willie Clay** (with **Mr. Franklin**) in a hair vs. hair match. According to a prematch stipulation, Mr. Franklin had his head shaved.
(04-06-96)

—Dan Parris

MAGGIE VALLEY—Great American Wrestling Federation at the Spring House: **Scarecrow** pinned **Bonomo Joe** ... **Dr. Dan** beat **Stan Brown** ... **Major DeBeers** (with **Count Grog**) pinned **Ricky Rocket** .. **Terminator Rex** & **The Butcher** beat **The Wolfman** & **J.D. Sullivan** ... **"Iceman" Mike Murphy** beat **K.C. Thunder** (with **Count Grog**) by disqualification ... **The Georgia Express** beat **Killer Kyle** & **Crusher Davis** by disqualification.
(04-02-96)

—Greg Mosorjak

ASHEVILLE—Great American Wrestling Federation at Fairview Community Center: **The Executioner** beat **Bomono Joe** ... U.S. champion **Iceman** beat **Pvt. Stan Lee Brown** ... In a match between **David Jericho** & **Rick Savage** and **The Beautiful Blonds**, Jericho was declared the winner after Savage turned against him during the match ... **Terminator**



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Rex & The Carolina Heartbreaker beat **John Owens & J.D. Sullivan** ... **Peggy Lee Leather** defeated ladies champion **Bambi** to win the title ... Heavyweight champion **K.C. Thunder** wrestled **Freight Train Lane** to a double-countout.
(03-30-96)

—Joe Wheeler & Dan Parris

FARMVILLE—SEWA at the National Guard Armory: **The Iron Chief** wrestled **Gorgeous George III** to a no-contest ... **Dog** beat **Stryker** ... **"Big Dawg" David Dawson** beat **C.W. Anderson** ... **Frank Parker & Roger Anderson** beat **Poison Ivey & Gorgeous George III** ... **Candi Devine** wrestled **Tracy Donahue** to a double-countout ... **Viper** beat **Major DeBeers** (managed by **Count Grog**) in a dog-collar match.
(03-30-96)

—Greg Mosorjak

MOUNT AIRY—AIWF's "Spring Jam '96" at the National Guard Armory: **Dynamite Doug** beat **Sam Hain** ... **Major Breakinridge** defeated **Jammer** ... **The Black Knight** beat **Robert Roma** ... Heavyweight champion **Johnny Reb** beat U.S. champ **Jumpin' Jimmy** by disqualification in a title vs. title match ... **Brian Danzig & Rick Deezel** beat **Rick Luster & Chris Windham** in a double-dog-collar match when Danzig pinned Luster ... **The Tennessee Violence Authority** beat **Major Havoc & Superstar** and **Jackie Anderson & Total Destruction** in a triangle match ... **Johnny Reb** won a 16-man, four-corners match.
(03-30-96)

—Dean Puckett

LINCOLNTON—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Russian Assassin II** (with **Madd Maxxine**) defeated **Flaming Youth** ... **The Assassin** beat **Star Ryder** ... Eastern States champion **Austin Steele** defeated **Chris Hamrick** ... **David Jericho & Italian Stallion** beat **Terry Austin & George South** ... **Chris Hamrick, Star Ryder, & Italian Stallion** defeated **Terry Austin, George South, & Austin Steele** in a barbed-wire "War Games" match.
(03-29-96)

—Brock Chandler

WAYNESVILLE—Great American Wrestling Federation TV taping at the Rag Mill Mall: **The Scarecrow** beat **The Butcher** ... **P.M.S.** beat **Chester A. Redmon** in a mixed match ... **Wolfman** beat **Stan Lee** ... TV champ **J.D. Sullivan** beat **Ricky Rockett** ... **K.C. Thunder, Terminator Rex, & Eddie Golden** beat **Viper, Dr. Dan, & Wolfman** ... U.S. champion **Iceman** beat **Major DeBeers** ... **Killer Kyle & Crusher Davis** beat tag team champs **The Georgia Express** in a non-title match.
(03-28-96)

—Joe Wheeler

OHIO

BARBERTON—Independent card at the High School: **Jimmy "The Cat" Sherman** beat **The Red Demon** ... Steel City Wrestling tag team champions **"Handsome" Frank Stalletto & "Beef Stew" Lou Marconi** beat **Ron Cumberledge & Kenny "Hurricane" Hendrix** ... **Thunder Morgan & The Green Hornet** beat **Chip Endale & The Prince of Polyester** ... **Kid Collins** pinned **The Grave Digger** (with **Grim Death**) ... **Jesse "Madman" Salica** defeated **Savannah Slim** by countout.
(04-13-96)

—Jeff Gorman

LEXINGTON—ASWA TV taping at the High School: **Bo Dacious** defeated **Pete the Pirate** by submission ... Heavyweight champion **Thunder Morgan** beat **Fang** ... **Isha Dekimasu** defeated **Micro Menace** ... **Kenny "Hurricane" Hendrix** defeated **Chip Endale** ... **Lumberin' Jack** beat **Bo Dacious** ... Tag team champions **Max Profit & The Prince of Polyester** defeated **"Handsome" Frank Stalletto & "Beef Stew" Lou Marconi** ... Heavyweight champion **Thunder Morgan** (with **Ed Deadly**) pinned **"Wildcat" Chris Harris** ... **Jimmie Lee** beat light heavyweight champion **Kid Collins** (with **Ed Deadly**) in a non-title hair vs. hair match ... **Max Profit** won an 18-man battle royal, last eliminating **"Beef Stew" Lou Marconi**.
(04-12-96)

—Jeff Gorman

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—Tri-County Wrestling at the Northern Liberties Rec Center: **Insomnia** defeated **Trent Acid** ... **H.W. Star & J.D. Ryder** beat **Blitzkrieg & Crazy Ivan** ... **Sheik Abdul Jahad** beat **Rafael Barrio** ... **Onyx Dahmer** wrestled **Rage** to a no-contest ... **"Dirty" Dan Slade** defeated **Bo Steele** in a match in which the loser got 10 lashes with a strap ... Tag team champions **The Lost Boys** beat **Blitzkrieg & Crazy Ivan** ... **Twiggy Ramirez** won a four-corners match that also included **Phantasm, Battlestar** (the previous champion), and **Kamikaze** to win the junior heavyweight title.
(04-13-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

PHILADELPHIA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the ECW Arena: **The Pit Bulls** (with **Francine**) beat **The Bad Crew** ... **Mikey Whipwreck** pinned **Damian Kane** ... **The Gangstas** defeated **The Blue Meanie & Chad Austin** (substituting for **Stevie Richards**) ... **J.T. Smith** beat **Hack Myers** in a stretcher match ... **Taz** (with **Bill Alfonso**) beat **Bubba Ray Dudley** by submission ... Tag team champions **The Eliminators** beat **The Dark Riders** ... TV champion **2 Cold Scorpio** battled **Rob Van Dam** to a time-limit draw ... **Shane Douglas, Tommy Dreamer, & The Sandman** beat **Raven** and **The Bruise Brothers**.
(03-30-96)

—David Fredrick

GLENOLDEN—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the Briarcliff Field House: **J.T. Smith** pinned **El Puerto Ricano** ... **Taz** (with **Bill Alfonso**) defeated **Damian Stone** by submission ... TV champion **2 Cold Scorpio** pinned **Bubba Ray Dudley** ... **Chris Jericho** pinned **Damian 666** ... **The Bad Crew** beat **The Gangstas** by countout when **The Eliminators** interfered ... Heavyweight champion **Raven** (with **Stevie Richards & The Blue Meanie**) pinned **Axl Rotten** ... **Shane Douglas** wrestled **The Sandman** to a no-contest ... **Sabu** pinned **Billy Black** ... **The Headhunters & Brian Lee** beat **Tommy Dreamer & The Pit Bulls** in an extreme death match.
(04-12-96)

—Bart Orkline

WILLIAMSPORT—Int'l Pro Wrestling at Lycoming College: **Johnny Graham** beat **Ricky Blues** ... **Adolfo Ruiz** beat **Half Nelson & Tiny the Terrible** ... **Johnny Gunn** wrestled **Virgil** to a double-countout ... **Skullface** beat **911** by disqualification ... **Doug Flex** beat **Skullface** ... **Brick Bronsky** beat **"Handsome" Frank Stalletto** ... **911** wrestled **Bam Bam Bigelow** to a no-contest ... **Public Enemy** beat **The Goodfellas** in a street fight.
(03-30-96)

—Timothy A. Walker

HAVERTOWN—Liberty All-Star Wrestling at St. Dennis School Hall: **H.W. Star, Derek Domino, & Jon Rock** beat **Otter, Kool Kid Ice, & Donn E. Allen** ... **Larry Winters** pinned **The Maverick** ... **Chubby Dudley** beat **Harley Lewis** ... **Jimmy Jannetty & Ramblin' Rich** beat **The Hell Riders** ... **Norm the Barfly** pinned **Cujo** ... **Sheik Abdul Jahad, Lance Diamond, Midnight Morrison, & The Black Demon** beat **Steve Corino, Johnny Gunn, Inferno Kid, & Tony Stallone** ... ***In semifinal matches of a tournament for the vacant heavyweight title:*** **The Rockin' Rebel** beat **Lance Diamond** ... **Glen Osbourne** beat **Blue Thunder** ... ***Finals:*** Rebel beat Osbourne to win the heavyweight title.
(03-29-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

READING—Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling at Stokesay Castle: **"Dirty" Don Montoya** beat **Johnny Graham** ... **Chef D.Z. Gillespie** beat **Diablos Macabre** ... **Boogie Woogie Brown** defeated **The Masked Assassin** ... **Double Delight** won a four-corners match over champions **Jimmy Deo & Ray Odyssey, Maxx Crimson & Race Richards III, & Johnny Blaze & Julio Sanchez** to win the tag team title ... **Juggernaut** won a 12-man battle royal ... **Cheetah Master** beat **Ace Darling** ... **Akita Kaos & Dave Keller** beat **Reckless Youth & D-Lo Brown** ... **Primo Carnera III** beat **Mark Mest**.
(03-29-96)

—Timothy A. Walker

SOUTH CAROLINA

ABBEVILLE—Southern Championship Wrestling at the Civic Center: **Johnny Dollar** beat **Maxx Miles** ... **Stone Cold Kid** beat **S.W.A.T.** ... **Wonderful Wayne** defeated **The Freedom Fighter** by disqualification ... **Desperado & Jake Mulligan** beat **J.W. & S.W. Steele** ... **Butcher Blackwell & Crusher Lewis** beat **Mikki Free & Ricky Regal** by disqualification.
(03-30-96)

—Dan Parris

GREER—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Baby Huey** defeated **Russian Assassin II** ... Junior heavyweight champion **Gladiator II** wrestled to a 20-minute time-limit draw with **Flaming Youth** ... **The Assassin** defeated **The Black Dragon** ... ***In a tournament for the vacant PWF heavyweight title:*** **Italian Stallion** defeated **Austin Steele** in a first-round match, which meant he got to move on to the second round, where he defeated **Terry Austin**. He lost, however, in the third and final round when he was pinned by **George South**.
(03-30-96)

—Brock Chandler

TENNESSEE

MORRISTOWN—Tennessee Mountain Wrestling at the Talley Ward Building: **Mr. Olympian** defeated **Rick Savage** .. **James Blevins** defeated **David Jericho** ... **Steve Skyfire & Mr. Olympian** wrestled **The Beautiful Blonds** to a double-countout ... **Eight-Ball Jones** beat **Bunkhouse Buck** by disqualification ... **Tim Horner & "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony** wrestled **The Mongolian Stomper & Chris Powers** to a double-disqualification.
(04-13-96)

—Bill Needham

FALL BRANCH—Southern States Wrestling at the Sampson Center: **Death & Destruction** beat **The Tennessee Thumper & Freight Train Ford** ... **Danny Christian** wrestled **Chic White** to a draw ... **Steve Flynn** pinned **Storm Trooper** ... **The Equalizer** pinned **Alan Wayne** ... **Death & Destruction** beat **Steve Flynn & Ricky Morton** ... Midget wrestler **Bad Boy Buck** won a battle royal, last eliminating **Beau James**.
(04-12-96)

—Fay Ferguson

(Continued on page 52)

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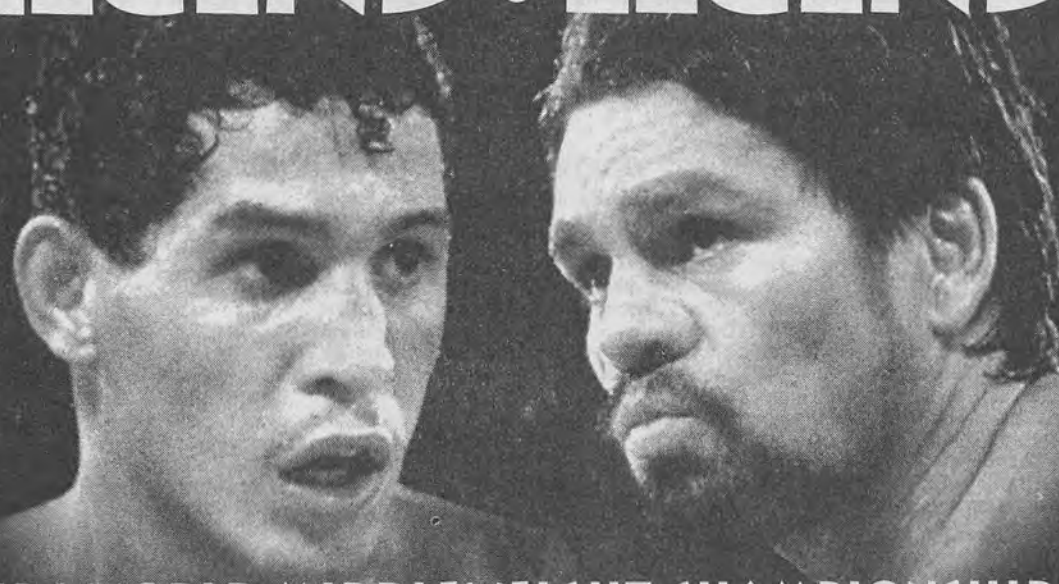

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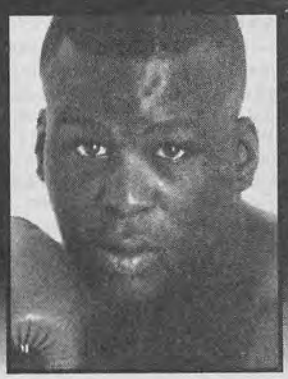

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arena reports

(Continued from page 50)

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Tony Williams** defeated **Bad News** ... **David Haskins** defeated **Motley Cruz** ... **Samantha** defeated **Miss Texas** in a street fight ... Tag team champions **The Cyberpunks** beat **The Headbangers** by disqualification ... Southern champion **Mabel** defeated **Brian Christopher** by disqualification ... **Tommy Rich** defeated heavyweight champion **Jerry Lawler** by disqualification ... **Cyberpunk Fire** defeated **Bill Dundee** in a mask vs. car match. According to a prematch stipulation, Dundee must give his car to Fire ... **Mabel, Mo,** & **Reggie B. Fine** defeated **Jerry Lawler, Brian Christopher,** & **Moondog Spot.**
(04-08-96)

—Mark Mitchell

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Tony Williams** beat **Motley Cruz** ... **Bill Dundee** beat **David Haskins** ... **Miss Texas** beat **Brandon Baxter** ... **Samantha** beat **Miss Texas** ... **Tommy Rich** defeated **Tony Williams** ... Tag team champions **The Cyberpunks** beat **The Headbangers** ... **Men on a Mission** defeated **Brian Christopher** & **Moondog Spot** ... **Cyberpunk Fire** defeated **Bill Dundee** by disqualification when **Samantha** interfered.
(04-01-96)

—Ed Westerly

MARYVILLE—All-State Wrestling at the Game Room: **Rick Conners** beat **Wayne Spain** ... **Felix Hutton** beat **Russell Thompson** ... **Greg Hart** beat **"Jumping" Jeff Gann** ... **Felix Hutton** & **Jeff Gann** beat **Greg Hart** & **Russell Thompson** ... **Lone Star** & **Tony Prichard** beat **Lawrence Hutton** & **Regulator Stone** in a no-time-limit grudge match.
(04-05-96)

—Bill Needham

HUNTSVILLE—Cumberland Wrestling Council at the Middle School: **The Bouncer** beat **Rick Roberts** by disqualification ... **Keith Hart** wrestled **The Drifter** to a double-disqualification ... **Joe Carr** defeated TV champion **The Wild Child** to win the belt ... Junior heavyweight champion **Kevin Acres** beat **Shogun II** ... **Steve Stakk** defeated heavyweight champion **The Mongolian Stomper** to win the title ... **Gabe Casteel** & **Double Trouble II** beat **Killer Kyle** & **Bruiser Kyle** by disqualification.
(04-04-96)

—Bill Needham

JOHNSON CITY—Southern States Wrestling at Night Moves: **David Jericho** beat **Alan King** ... **Bubba** wrestled **Danny Christian** to a double-countout ... **Beau James** pinned **Scott Sterling** ... **Bobby Blaze** pinned **Gorgeous George III** ... **Ricky Morton** & **Bobby Fulton** defeated tag team champions **Death** & **Destruction** to win the title.
(04-04-96)

—Fay Ferguson

TEXAS

DALLAS—Confederate Wrestling Alliance at the Sportatorium: **Bubba Monroe** beat **Dan Davis** ... **Shawn Summers** beat **Casey Cannon** ... **Bobby Duncum Jr.** beat **Dick Murdoch** by disqualification ... **Sam Houston** & **Charlie Norris** beat **Guido Falcone** & **Vito Mussolini** ... **Rod Price** beat **Chris Adams** ... **Bo Vegas** & **Devon Michaels** beat **Al** & **Action Jackson.**
(04-12-96)

—Lori Jermyn

DALLAS—Confederate Wrestling Association at the Sportatorium: **Al Jackson** beat **The Golden Chicano** ... **Action Jackson** beat **Bill Irwin** ... **Charlie Norris** beat **Bullman Downs** ... **Chris Adams** beat **Shawn Summers** ... **Scott Putski** beat **Firebreaker Chip** ... **Johnny Mantel, Sam Houston,** & **Bobby Duncum Jr.** beat **Rod Price, Guido Falcone,** & **Vito Mussolini.**
(03-29-96)

—Heather Kelmar

WEST VIRGINIA

PRINCETON—Southern States Wrestling at the Recreation Center: **Scotty McKeever** pinned **Scott Sterling** ... **Dan Cooley** pinned **Eddie Golden** ... **Tim Blaze** pinned **Stan Lee** ... **Bubba** wrestled **Jim Stud** to a double-disqualification ... **Ricky Morton** & **Bad Boy Buck** beat **Beau James** & **P.J. Sharp** ... **Super Mario** & **The Juicer** beat **Death** & **Destruction** ... **Jimmy Valiant** beat **War Machine** after Beau James interfered.
(04-06-96)

—Fay Ferguson

INTERNATIONAL

GERMANY

BONN—WWF at Sporthalle: **The Bushwhackers** & **Duke "The Dumpster" Droese** beat **Leif Cassidy, The Kid,** & **Dr. Isaac Yankem** ... **Justin Bradshaw** beat **Savio Vega** ... **Owen Hart** defeated **Jake Roberts** ... **Ahmed Johnson** beat **Steve Austin** by disqualification ... World tag team champions **Skip** & **Zip** beat **Henry** & **Phineas Godwinn** ... Intercontinental champion **Goldust** beat **Razor Ramon** ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Diesel** ... **Bret Hart** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** ... World champion **Shawn Michaels** beat **Davey Boy Smith.**
(04-11-96)

—Franz Huber

JAPAN

TOKYO—New Japan at Korakuen Hall: **Tokimitsu Ishizawa** beat **Yutaka Yoshie** ... **Akitoshi Saito** beat **Tatsuhito Takaiwa** ... **Kuniaki Kobayashi** & **Kengo Kimura** beat **Tadao Yasuda** & **Black Cat** ... **Hiro Saito** beat **Michiyoshi Ohara** ... **Taka Michinoku, Shinjiro Otani,** & **Koji Kanemoto** beat **El Samurai, Gran Hamada,** & **Jushin Liger** ... **Shinya Hashimoto** & **Junji Hirata** beat **Osamu Nishimura** & **Satoshi Kojima** .... **Shiro Koshinaka, Tatsutoshi Goto,** & **Akira Nogami** beat **Yuji Nagata, Takashi Iizuka,** & **Osamu Kido** ... **The Great Muta** & **Kensuke Sasaki** beat **Masa Chono** & **Hiroyoshi Tenzan.**
(04-05-96)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

SOUTH AFRICA

CAPE TOWN—NWA at the Good Hope Center: **Brilliant Baker** defeated **Robert Blitz** ... **S.A. Sting** defeated **Pierre Mac** ... **Nizuam Hurtley** defeated **Danie Jordan** ... **Abdul Kader** & **Prince Irshaad** defeated **Trevor** & **Leslie van de Westhuizen** ... **Pink Panther** wrestled **Dusty Wolfe** to a draw ... **Prince of Africa** beat **Hammer** ... **Danie Brits** & **Danie Vogues** beat **The Giant Warrior** & **The Viking.**
(04-09-96)

—Brett Wolfe

JOHANNESBURG—NWA at the National Expo Stadium: **Gypsy Roulette** defeated **Terri Middoux** ... **Black Bullit** wrestled **The Outlaw** to a double-countout ... **Dusty Wolfe** wrestled **The Prince of Africa** to a draw ... **Giant Warrior** beat **Danie Vogues** ... **Danie Brits** beat **The Viking.**
(04-06-96)

—Brett Wolfe

NABOOMSPRUIT—NWA at Lekkerus Holiday Camp: **Sunny Surf** defeated **Gypsy Roulette** ... **Dusty Wolfe** defeated **Johan Vogues** ... **Danie Vogues** defeated **The Viking** by disqualification ... **Sunny Surf, Danie Vogues,** & **Johan Vogues** beat **Gypsy Roulette, Dusty Wolfe,** & **The Viking.**
(04-04-96)

—Brett Wolfe

DURBAN—All-Star Wrestling at Wembley Stadium: **Henry Naidoo** defeated **Andre van de Merwe** ... **Black Bullit** beat **The Pink Panther** by disqualification ... **The Prince of Africa** beat **The Dirty Angel** ... **Dusty Wolfe** beat **The Viking** ... **Gama Singh** & **Danie Brits** beat **The Giant Warrior** & **Vladimir Koloff.**
(03-30-96)

—Brett Wolfe

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY
SEPTEMBER

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: **Bruno Sammartino** wrestled **Hans Mortier** to a draw ... **Spiros Arion** defeated **Prof. Toru Tanaka** ... **Edouardo Carpentier** wrestled **The Sheik** to a draw ... **Bulldog Brower** defeated **Miguel Perez** ... **Bobo Brazil** defeated **Luke Graham** ... **Baron Scicluna** beat **Gil Gordon** ... **Gorilla Monsoon** defeated **Dr. Bill Miller** ... **The Kangaroos** beat **Smasher Sloan** & **Ricki Sexton** in a best-of-three-falls match.
(09-25-67)

—PWI archives

TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Catholic High School: **Joey Maggs** beat **Twilight Zone Quasar** ... **Cowabunga** beat **Twilight Zone Nebula** ... **Bill Dundee** beat **Doug Gilbert** by disqualification ... **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony** pinned **Brickhouse Brown** ... **Jeff Jarrett, Jeff Gaylord,** & **Danny Davis** beat **Brian Lee, Don Harris,** & **Downtown Bruno** ... **Jerry Lawler** defeated **Eddie Gilbert** in a coal miner's glove match ... **Jerry Lawler, Bill Dundee, Jeff Jarrett, Brickhouse Brown,** & **Jeff Gaylord** beat **Eddie** & **Doug Gilbert, Brian Lee, Don Harris,** & **Tony Anthony.**
(09-27-90)

—Mark Mitchell

TEXAS

CORPUS CRISTI—NWA at the Memorial Coliseum: **El Gran Markus** defeated **Jose Lothario** to win the Texas brass knuckles title ... Texas champion **Red Bastien** defeated **Blackjack Mulligan** ... **Blackjack Lanza** beat **Jeff Porting** ... **Assasino Negro** defeaed **Scott Casey** ... **Ken Patera** beat **Jim Drummer.**
(09-12-74)

—Neil Borden

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4661	4 Non Blondes	2765	Crowded House	4631	Indigo Girls	6352	Nelson	7643	Smithereens
2231	AC/DC	2791	Cry of Love	4691	INXS	6393	New Order	7661	Sonic Youth
2371	Aerosmith	2853	The Cult	2768	Jackson Browne	6461	Nine Inch Nails	7683	Soul Asylum
6261	Aimee Mann	2871	The Cure	5224	Jackyl	6471	Nirvana	7682	Soundgarden
2664	Alice Cooper	3261	Damn Yankees	8291	James Taylor	6722	NRBQ	7746	Spin Doctors
2541	Alice in Chains	3262	Danger Danger	5261	Jane's Addiction	6723	Ozzy Osbourne	7181	Squeeze
2551	Allman Bros.	3265	Danzig	4272	Jerry Garcia Band	7263	Pantera	8242	Steve Vai
2681	Anthrax	2691	David Bowie	5371	Jesus Jones	7692	Patty Smyth	6421	Stevie Nicks
2527	B-52s	7681	David Lee Roth	5385	Jethro Tull	7463	Paul Simon	7842	Sting
2233	Bad Company	3332	Deep Purple	2831	Jimmy Buffett	6221	Paul McCartney	7863	Stone Temple Pilots
2323	Beatles	3331	Def Leppard	7282	Joe Satriani	9373	Paul Westerberg	7834	Suede
2325	Beck	3371	Depeche Mode	6351	John Mellencamp	7321	Pearl Jam	7841	Suicidal Tendencies
2352	Belly	3461	Dinosaur Jr.	5831	Judas Priest	4221	Peter Gabriel	7862	Sundays
2381	Beverly Hills 90210	3462	Dio	4282	Juliana Hatfield	3722	Peter Frampton	8341	Suzanne Vega
2444	Big Head Todd/Monsters	3472	Dire Straits	5262	Kansas	7441	Phish	8251	Talking Heads
4361	Billy Idol	3733	Dream Theater	5461	King's X	7462	Pink Floyd	8321	Tears For Fears
5632	Billy Joel	3871	Duran Duran	5462	The Kinks	7641	Poison	6841	Ted Nugent
2523	Black Crowes	3242	The Eagles	5472	KISS	7671	Porno For Pyros	8371	Tesla
2524	Black Sabbath	2741	Edie Brickell	5332	Led Zeppelin	7745	Primus	8372	Testament
2544	Blind Melon	5641	Elton John	5366	Lemonheads	7762	Prong	8432	The The
3951	Bob Dylan	2671	Elvis Costello	5721	Lenny Kravitz	1831	Queen	7381	Tom Petty
2661	Bon Jovi	3681	Enuff Z'nuff	5451	Lillian Axe	1832	Queensryche	2622	Tom Cochrane
2662	Bonham	5642	Eric Johnson	3671	Lita Ford	7363	R.E.M.	8662	Tool
2731	Breeders	2525	Eric Clapton	5484	Live	7232	Radiohead	8741	Trixter Fan Club
2769	Brother Cane	3981	Extreme	5962	Lynch Mob	7265	Ramones	8221	U2
4673	Bruce Hornsby	3241	Faith No More	7931	Matthew Sweet	7283	RATT	8241	UB40
7771	Bruce Springsteen	3442	Fight	6322	Meat Loaf	7332	Red Hot Chili Peppers	8451	Ugly Kid Joe
2321	Bryan Adams	3471	Firehouse	6241	Megadeth	6273	Richard Marx	8743	Urge Overkill
2852	Bulletboys	3531	Fleetwood Mac	3841	Melissa Etheridge	7521	Robert Plant	8262	Van Halen
2881	Butthole Surfers	3673	Foreigner	6382	Metallica	7832	Rod Stewart	6341	Vince Neil
9433	Catherine Wheel	4362	Genesis	2651	Michael Bolton	7651	Rolling Stones	8461	Violent Femmes
9431	Cheryl Wheeler	8462	George Thorogood	6431	Midnight Oil	7652	Rollins Band	9271	W.A.S.P.
2461	Cinderella	4461	Gin Blossoms	6443	Mighty M. Bosstones	7871	Rush	9272	Warrant
2656	Collective Soul	4721	Grateful Dead	6463	Ministry	7223	Sacred Reich	9441	White Zombie
2663	Concrete Blonde	4731	Great White	6252	Mitch Malloy	7261	Santana	9463	The Who
2683	Counting Crows	4737	Green Day	6672	Morrissey	7374	Sepultura	9454	Wilson Phillips
2682	Coverdale/Page	4735	Green Jelly	6682	Motley Crue	6262	Sinead O'Connor	9671	World Party
2693	Cowboy Junkies	4861	Guns N' Roses	6681	Motorhead	7541	Skid Row	9371	Yes
2726	Cracker	4274	Hardline	6721	Mr. Big	7523	Slaughter	6251	YngwieMalmsteen
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(Continued from page 5)

CHEAP IMITATION

I can't believe Brutus Beefcake has once again transformed himself. What's worse is that this time he is doing a bad imitation of someone else. I think it is obvious that he is blatantly trying to imitate the man that I think is the greatest wrestler in the world, Disco Inferno. Now "Booty Man" Beefcake dances his way to the ring and dances during his matches just like Disco does. Booty Man acts like the crowd is really behind him, even though many are not—again, just like Disco (but I can't understand why the fans don't like Disco). The only thing that Booty has that Disco doesn't is The Booty Babe. I know if Disco showed her some of his dance moves, she'd be doing "the hustle" down to ringside with him instead.

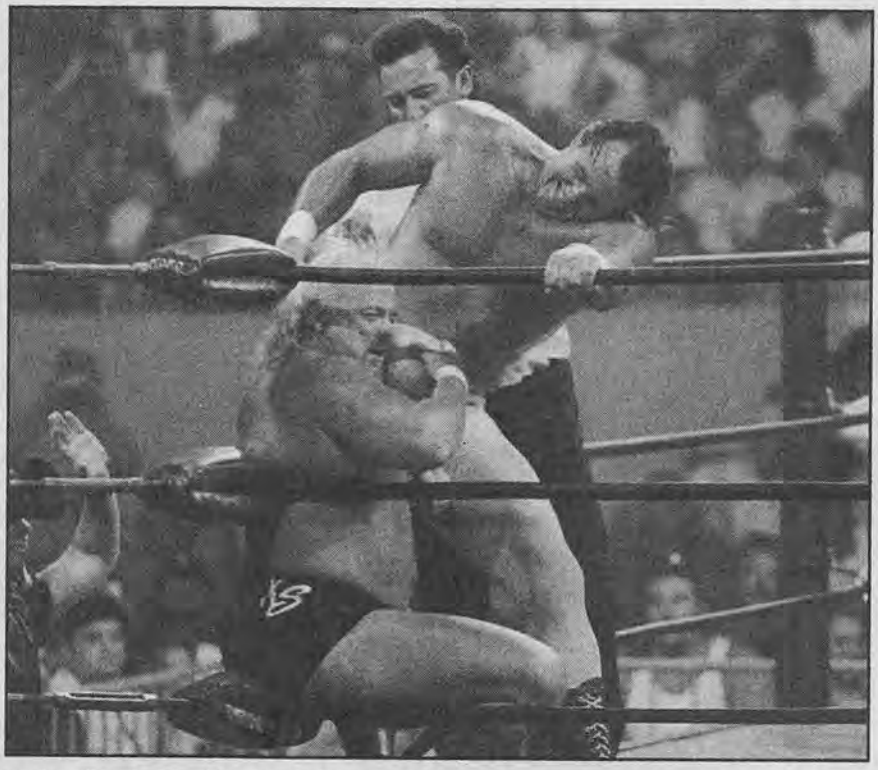
Disco Inferno should make Booty Man pay for trying to latch on to his image and trying to steal Disco's fans.

JENNIE BARTOLOWE
Pittsburgh, PA

TENNESSEE INVASION

Now that Bret "The Hitman" Hart has lost the WWF World belt, I think he should go down to Tennessee, invade the USWA, and win the USWA heavyweight championship. For him to hold that belt would just drive longtime pain in the butt and multiple-time USWA champion Jerry "Burger King" Lawler nuts. Seeing "his" belt around Hart's waist would infuriate that "Burger King." It would be just the kind of revenge Hart needs to end Lawler's shameless attacks on his family.

JOSE JIMENEZ
New York, NY □

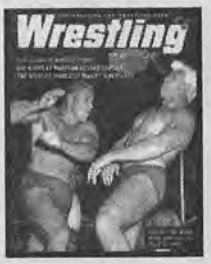


Brutus "Booty Man" Beefcake is now back to attacking Kevin Sullivan again. Reader Jennie Bartolowe isn't impressed by his latest transformation and considers him a Disco Inferno wannabe.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

WRESTLING REVUE



Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler,* and *Inside Wrestling,* among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

Fall 1961 Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. **$25**

December 1961 An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. **$35**

February 1962 Dick Beyer, Mitsu Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. **$30**

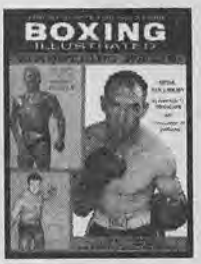
April 1962 Wilbur Snyder, Luis Martinez, Madison Square Garden closeup, Yulie Brynner, Billy Wolfe, Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor, closeup on midgets, plus a full-color centerfold of Bearcat Wright. **$30**

June 1962 Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. **$25**

December 1963 The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. **$35**

February 1964 Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **$35**

BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958, Stanley Weston launched *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News,* an innovative concept in sports magazines. Each issue's content consisted of approximately 60 percent boxing and 40 percent wrestling, resulting in the most complete magazine for ring afficianados the world has ever known.

May 1959 ***Boxing:*** Ray Robinson, James Jeffries, Rube Vargas, Willie Pep, Joey Maxim, Denny Moyer. ***Wrestling:*** Gene Stanlee, Larry Hamilton, Happy Humphrey, "Cowboy" Bob Ellis. **$25**

June 1959 ***Boxing:*** Gene Fullmer, Jack Britton, Gustav Scholz, Mauro Vazquez, Rocky Graziano. ***Wrestling:*** Buddy Rogers, Don Leo Jonathan, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Omaya Kato. **$35**

September 1959 ***Boxing:*** Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. ***Wrestling:*** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **$25**

October 1962 ***Boxing:*** Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! ***Wrestling:*** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **$30**

October 1963 ***Boxing:*** Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. ***Wrestling:*** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. **$25**

February 1964 ***Boxing:*** Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. ***Wrestling:*** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. **$30**

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WRESTLING REVUE

- ☐ Fall 1961
- ☐ December 1961
- ☐ February 1962
- ☐ April 1962
- ☐ June 1962
- ☐ December 1963
- ☐ February 1964

BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS

- ☐ May 1959
- ☐ June 1959
- ☐ September 1959
- ☐ October 1962
- ☐ October 1963
- ☐ February 1964

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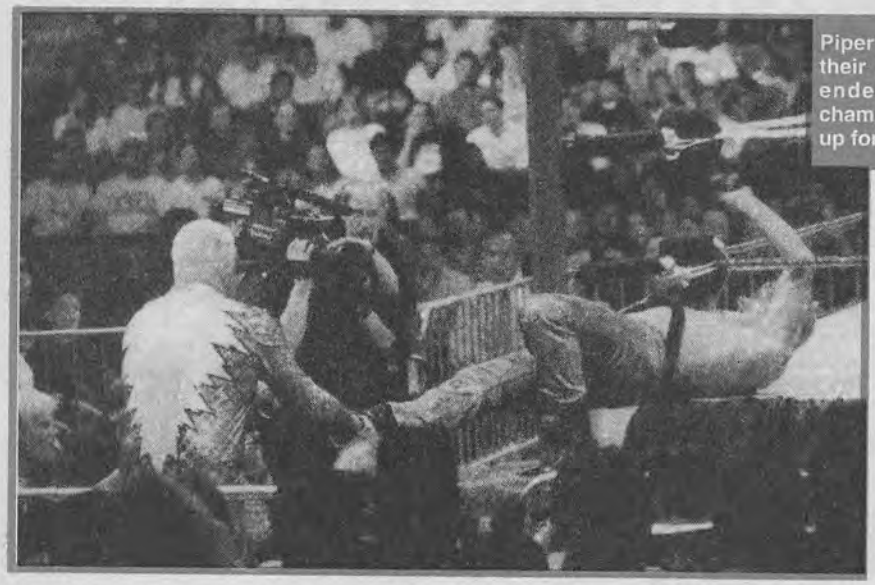
(Continued from page 21)



Piper was at Goldust's mercy during some of their backlot brawl at WrestleMania XII, but he ended up humiliating the Intercontinental champ. The "Rowdy Scot" has a way of getting up for very big matches.

lasted 29 other wrestlers to win his second consecutive Royal Rumble.

Throw all that out, because Piper thrives in the role of underdog.

"Michaels has never faced anyone like Roddy," said Orton. "Roddy's not a powerhouse like Razor or Diesel, or a technician like Bret Hart. Roddy's just unpredictable. He might wrestle you, he might fight you, or he might do both. He's hard to prepare for. You never what he's gonna do because *he* doesn't know what he's gonna do!"

For the first time in his career, Michaels is now discovering what it's like to be top dog. He's preparing for challenges from old foes like Hart and Davey Boy Smith, and new ones like Vader and Goldust. He's not too worried about a superstar of the 1980s and early-'90s who suddenly found himself out of a job when Monsoon resumed his post as WWF president. Maybe Roddy has one more rowdy run as a wrestler left in him. Orton thinks he does.

"Michaels would never know what hit him," said Orton.

We would—a man with a very brave heart. □

Michaels wanted to challenge the winner of the Bret-Piper Intercontinental title match at WrestleMania VIII, but Bret won, so a Piper-Michaels match was never signed. *Now* is the time to sign that match!

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(Continued from page 34)

Havoc Inc. do take their worship of PE to the extreme. They even write on the tape they use on their wrists (above), which is something Rock and Grunge often do. Looks like Grunge wasn't too flattered (below).

leave them battered. Havoc Inc. looks like it has been through a war, but strangely, O'Dog and Hollywood are smiling.

"Now we want The Gangstas," Hollywood said. "That would make our year! Public Enemy and The Gangstas. Can you imagine that?"

Can you believe it?

"I swear, I would've killed them if they came up to us and thanked us for nearly ending their lives," Grunge said.

"I definitely would've finished the job," Rock added.

Maybe they should have, because O'Dog and Hollywood are unflappable.

"You have to pay your dues and learn your lessons in wrestling," Hollywood said. "We learned our lesson tonight about what it takes to be at Public Enemy's level. Maybe we have some work to do, but that's okay."

Said O'Dog: "I'm just mad that we didn't get the chance to shake their hands."

No, but Public Enemy shook everything else on a night of glorified violence for Havoc Inc. □

being very competitive for a while. Once they get control of the match, though, Public Enemy draws out the affair and teaches Havoc Inc. a lesson in violence and mayhem. Public Enemy sends both of their opponents crashing through wooden tables, Rocco Rock with a somersault, Grunge with a crushing elbow-drop. The match spills outside of the ring and into the bleachers, where Havoc Inc. are spectators to their own beating.

With the fans on their side, Rock and Grunge crush the upstarts and

BACK ISSUES OF

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[NOTE: Cover stories noted in boldface.]

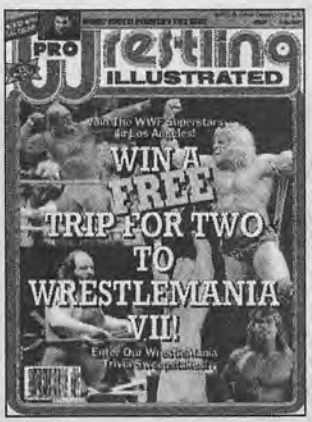
February 1988/CENTERFOLD: Ronnie Garvin. **Savage & Elizabeth,** Garvin, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1989/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steiner. **Randy Savage,** Ted Turner, Richter, Paul E., Powers of Pain.

December 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **New WWF Blood,** Four Horsemen, Kerry, Doom, Gilbert, Slaughter.

January 1991/CENTERFOLD: Kerry Von Erich. **WWF vs. NWA,** Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri & Warrior.

February 1991/CENTERFOLD: 1991 calendar. **WrestleMania,** Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Steiner, Power & Glory.



May 1991/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **Hulk Hogan,** Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

June 1991/CENTERFOLD: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** Cactus, Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiner.

January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/Summerslam,** Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

February 1993/CENTERFOLD: Curt Hennig. **Ramon,** Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

April 1993/CENTERFOLD: Barry Windham. **Steiners,** Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk-Sasaki.

November 1993/CENTERFOLD: The Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report,** Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.

January 1994/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. **Doink,** Nasty Boys, Steiners, Cornette, Vicious.

May 1994/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. **Yokozuna-Luger,** Flair-Vader, Heenan, WrestleMania retrospective.

July 1994/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Razor Ramon,** Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.

August 1994/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. **Bret Hart/WrestleMania X,** Steriners, Albano, steroid trial.

November 1994/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Hogan In WCW,** Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.

Winter 1994/CENTERFOLD: Terry Funk. **Hulkamania Wild Again,** McMahon, Vicious, AAA, Flair.

January 1995/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Tatanka,** Hogan, Alundra, ECW vs. NWA, Brian Lee.

February 1995/CENTERFOLD: Johnny B. Badd. **WCW Civil War,** Pillman & Austin, Abdullah, Bret Hart.

April 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sabu. **WWF Title Turmoil,** Hogan, Cornette, Diesel, Alundra, Rhodes.

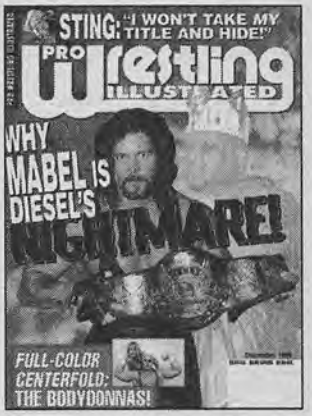
May 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Diesel,** Savage, Sabu, Hogan-Beefcake, Vader, Owen Hart.

July 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bam Bam Bigelow. **Hulk Hogan,** Sullivan, USWA blood, Yokozuna, revitalize the WWF.

August 1995/CENTERFOLD: Big Van Vader. **Women In Wrestling,** Rottens, Sting-Hogan, Road Warriors.

October 1995/CENTERFOLD: Harlem Heat. **Razor Ramon,** ideal WWF champ, Flair, Savage, Orndorff.

November 1995/CENTERFOLD: Hulk Hogan. **Summerslam,** Vader, Michaels, Backlund, North Korea, ECW rules.


STING: "I WON'T TAKE MY TITLE AND HIDE!"
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
WHY MABEL IS DIESEL'S NIGHTMARE!
FULL-COLOR CENTERFOLD: THE BODYDONNAS!

December 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bodydonnas. **Diesel-Mabel,** Sting, Yokozuna, Savio, Regal-Eaton, Lawler-LeDuc.

January 1996/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **WWF vs. WCW,** Diesel & Shawn, Luger, Summerslam.

February 1996/CENTERFOLD: Shawn Michaels. **Randy Savage,** Hogan, Gangstas-Public Enemy, Austin.

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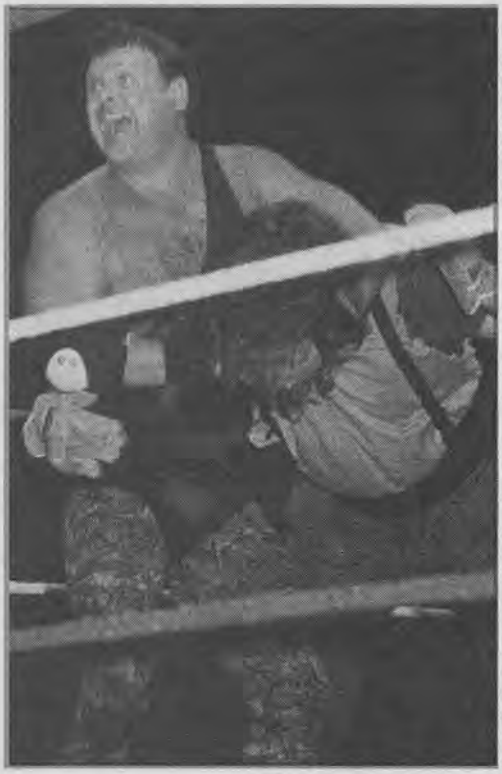

It doesn't matter if it's Duke Droese he's in the ring with or any other WWF superstar—Lawler is always very animated when he wrestles, but never more so than when he carried around a microphone during two recent matches.

begins and ends with me. By the end of this year, I will be atop both the USWA and the WWF!

LAWLER: What else is in store for wrestling?

LAWLER: I will become the only commentator on WWF shows. McMahon, Ross, and "Pee Wee" Pettengill will all realize the greatness that is Jerry Lawler. They will crawl back under the rocks where they got their broadcasting degrees.

LAWLER: And "Mr. Perfect"?

LAWLER: With all due respect to him, I showed my superiority as a wrestler when I stripped him of that AWA belt. Even he would have to admit my greatness as a broadcaster. He could maybe serve as a sidekick, like Ed McMahon.

LAWLER: Anything else?

LAWLER: I will be elected WWF president.

LAWLER: What would be your first executive decision as WWF president?

LAWLER: Aside from changing the title to "King," I would create a rule that says I can never be beaten. Wait, I wouldn't have to do that. But these cheating wrestlers and referees would make it necessary.

LAWLER: These are bold predictions.

LAWLER: Did you see me manhandle Shawn Michaels on *Raw*? He was overwhelmed by my technical ability. Even though he got that fast three-count after that illegal kick of his, the match was as easy as the ones I did my commentary on.

LAWLER: I'm glad you brought that up. Where did you get that great idea?

LAWLER: Well, being the brilliant wrestler that I am, I needed to make it more challenging. I was tired of the inane comments of McMahon, so I thought, *Who better to comment on "The King" than "The King" himself?!*

LAWLER: Kind of like this interview?

LAWLER: Absolutely. Michaels was lucky I left the mike in my dressing room that night. He would have received a physical and verbal lashing. Maybe next year the main event for WrestleMania will be WWF champion me vs. some nameless idiot, featuring the commentary of me!

LAWLER: That would make for record-breaking pay-per-view buy rates.

LAWLER: Right you are!

LAWLER: "King," if you could, please comment on the following wrestlers.

LAWLER: Fire away, my friend!

LAWLER: Goldust.

LAWLER: He may look like Tammy Faye Bakker, but he's bringing prestige and class to that Intercontinental belt.

LAWLER: Yokozuna.

LAWLER: Even Slim Fast can't cure him.

LAWLER: Diesel.

LAWLER: Finally woke up from that fan favorite slumber. It's great to see him kickin' his little buddy's butt again!

LAWLER: Ahmed Johnson.

LAWLER: Needs to lay off Bret Hart's hair oil. It's all over his body.

LAWLER: Mankind.

LAWLER: Makes that Unabomber guy look like a fine, upstanding citizen.

LAWLER: Jeff Jarrett.

Lawler might never stop feuding with Bret Hart. He still thinks and talks about him a lot and considers embarrassing "The Hitman" and his family his greatest accomplishment.

Before Jesse James Armstrong turned fan favorite in the USWA several months ago, Lawler humbled him a few times. He has been a wrestler for two decades, but he says his career is still just beginning.

LAWLER: "Double-J" is a friend to the end. His talents almost match mine.

LAWLER: So true. And, finally, Sunny.

LAWLER: Hey, you more than anyone should know my policy on that one. I never kiss and tell.

LAWLER: So, "King," why don't you tell the readers why you selected me to do the interview.

LAWLER: That's the easiest question of all. I've been interviewed by all these yellow journalists at *PWI*. Lenker, Rosenbaum, Rodriguez, Anderson. I'm tired of the same stupid questions over and over again.

LAWLER: Don't forget all those misquotes.

LAWLER: I can't tell you how many times my words were twisted to make me look like a fool.

LAWLER: Then why me?

LAWLER: Because, frankly, you're the only one I trust. Who knows "The King" better? Who better appreciates the many talents that I have? Definitely not the jealous staff of *PWI*.

LAWLER: Maybe there's a future for you as a journalist.

LAWLER: I'm a busy man with too much talent.

LAWLER: Well, this will definitely go down as the most fair and comprehensive interview in the history of *PWI*. Thank you for selecting me.

LAWLER: I definitely echo those sentiments. It's been our pleasure. □

"And in this corner... Vincent 'The Accountant' Stevens."

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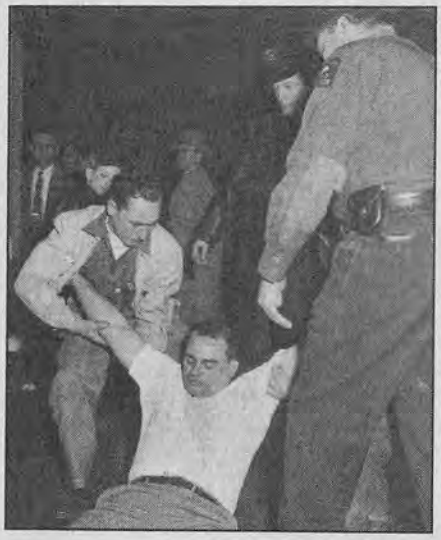


EL MATADOR IN HIS FORMATIVE YEARS?

It looks about right, doesn't it? The photo was taken in 1962. Tito Santana would have been just a youngster then. He probably liked dressing in traditional Mexican garb, and he was probably proud of how he looked. But it's not him. That's wrestler Blackie Guzman on the right watching over his wife, Betty, and his son, Mitchell. But it could have been Tito!

WHO SAYS FANS DON'T CARE ABOUT THE REFEREES?!

These days, it seems as if wrestling referees are getting knocked cold all the time. And if they miss seeing some key interference while they're unconscious, all they get is grief from the fans and wrestlers once they wake up. Not so in the old days—well, at least on certain occasions. When referee Cal Roberts was accidentally kayoed here, two policemen *and* a fan lent him a hand.

"YOU THINK YOU'RE SO TOUGH, KOVERLY? COME ON—RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW! UH, BUT DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE OFF MY COAT AND TIE FIRST?"

You think sports fans today are rough on athletes. We bet George Koverly could tell some stories that would astonish you. When he threatened to take a swing at some gentlemen who were heckling him after he beat Vic Tanski in Buffalo one night, they obviously took him very seriously. Fortunately for all involved, no punches were ever thrown.

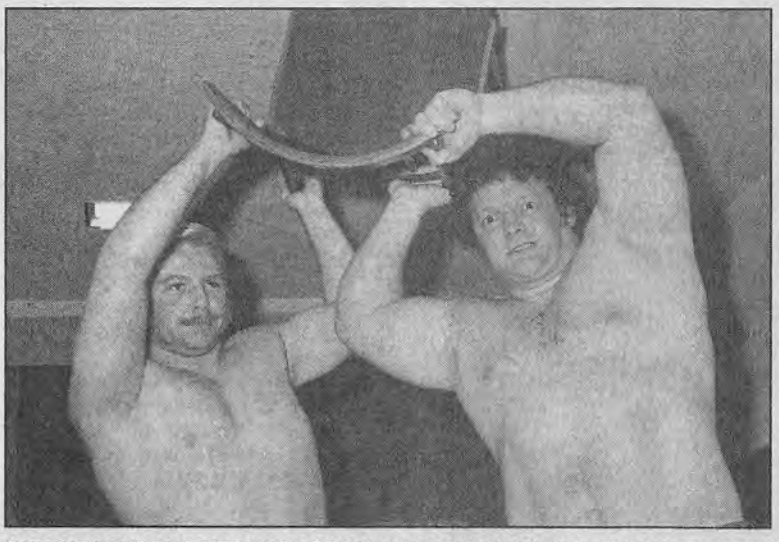
DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU'D HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU!

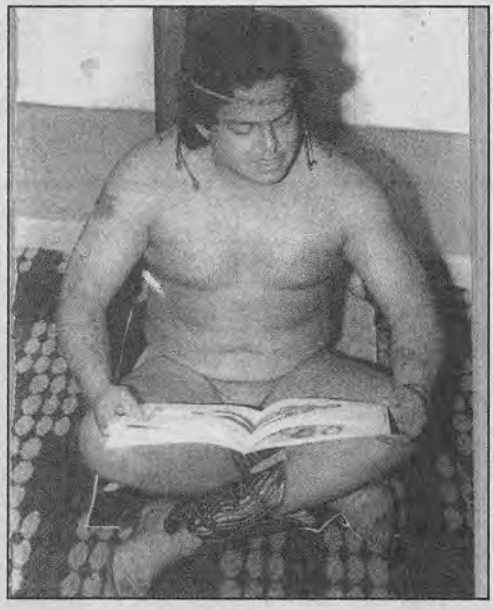
Wasn't that the Golden Rule we all learned when we were little? In some cases, that rule is relevant in wrestling, too. For instance, if you're in a battle royal and one of the other combatants puts you in a headlock, just find someone that *you* can put in a headlock. This scene, from a 1964 battle royal in Houston, has been called the longest headlock in history. From left to right, it's Tiger Conway, Joe Blanchard, Pedro Petino, Nick Spillios, Oni Kiki Wiki, Sonny Cooper, Frank Marconi, and Danny Hodge.

Every other month, ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** *will pore through its massive photo collection to bring you some of the most unique photographs the mat world has ever seen!*

"PLEASE, KIND SIR, WE WOULD PREFER AT THIS MOMENT THAT YOU NOT TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH OF US"

If you were a wrestling photographer some 25 years ago, it didn't take you long to figure out that Bobby Shane and "The Professional" Doug Gilbert didn't always like posing for pictures. Give the man who got this shot some credit for having courage!



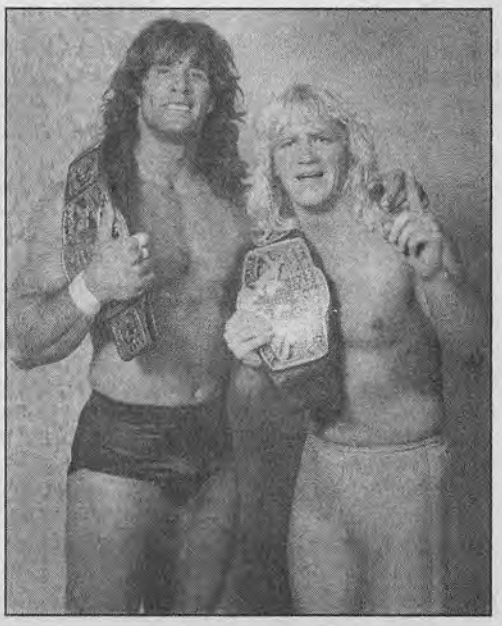


A BROADCASTER IN THE MAKING

Does this man look like someone who would feel comfortable sitting behind a press table, wearing a headset, and doing commentary on some great WWF matches? Probably not, but you never can tell which wrestlers will turn out to be fine broadcasters. This is Hugo Savinovich, one of the announcers on the Spanish-language broadcasts of *WWF Monday Night Raw* and WWF pay-per-views.

"THAT'S GREAT, BUT LET'S SEE HIM THROW THE WHOLE TRUCK NOW!"

Back in the early-1980s, Ken Patera billed himself as the world's strongest man, and it wasn't a good idea to tell him differently. Patera, who showed off his brute strength while winning a bronze medal in the 1972 Olympic weightlifting competition, was equally impressive in CBS' *World's Strongest Man Competition.*



"HEY, KERRY, YOU EVER THINK ABOUT RECORDING A COUNTRY ALBUM?"

This was "Double-J" in the spring of 1989, when he was just plain-old Jeff Jarrett, rule-abiding fan favorite. He and the late Kerry Von Erich held the World Class tag team title at the time. Jarrett was much more humble then, but still thought he was number one!

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PWI's Top 10

Jeff Jarrett

TOP 10

1. **SHAWN MICHAELS**
   234, San Antonio, TX
   (1) WWF World champion
2. **THE GIANT**
   430, parts unknown
   (10) WCW World champion
3. **DIESEL**
   356, Las Vegas, NV
   (-) No. 9 contender: WWF World title
4. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   (8) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
5. **THE UNDERTAKER**
   328, parts unknown
   (2) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
6. **LEX LUGER**
   265, Chicago, IL
   (3) WCW TV champion
7. **BIG VAN VADER**
   450, Denver, CO
   (-) No. 6 contender: WWF World title
8. **JEFF JARRETT**
   230, Nashville, TN
   (-) USWA heavyweight champion
9. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   273, Scottsdale, AZ
   (7) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
10. **KONNAN**
    237, Mexico City, Mexico
    (6) U.S. heavyweight champion

TAG TEAMS

1. **SKIP & ZIP**
   Combined weight: 446 pounds
   (1) WWF World tag team champions
2. **LEX LUGER & STING**
   Combined weight: 525 pounds
   (2) WCW World tag team champions
3. **LEIF CASSIDY & MARTY JANNETTY**
   Combined weight: 462 pounds
   (-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
4. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   Combined weight: 560 pounds
   (3) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
5. **RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
   Combined weight: 483 pounds
   (5) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
6. **HENRY & PHINEAS GODWINN**
   Combined weight: 531 pounds
   (4) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
7. **THE NASTY BOYS**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   (9) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title
8. **OWEN HART & DAVEY BOY SMITH**
   Combined weight: 472 pounds
   (-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
9. **THE ELIMINATORS**
   Combined weight: 459 pounds
   (7) ECW tag team champions
10. **THE CYBERPUNKS**
    Combined weight: 471 pounds
    (6) USWA tag team champions

WCW

World Champion:
THE GIANT
(3) 430, parts unknown

1. **KONNAN** *(1) 237, Mexico City, Mexico*
2. **STING** *(4) 260, Venice Beach, CA*
3. **LEX LUGER** *(2) 265, Chicago, IL*
4. **HULK HOGAN** *(5) 275, Venice Beach, CA*
5. **RIC FLAIR** *(C) 243, Minneapolis, MN*
6. **RANDY SAVAGE** *(6) 237, Sarasota, FL*
7. **HACKSAW DUGGAN** *(-) 280, Glens Falls, NY*
8. **BOOTY MAN** *(8) 273, San Francisco, CA*
9. **EDDY GUERRERO** *(7) 221, Los Angeles, CA*
10. **MARCUS BAGWELL** *(-) 240, Marietta, GA*

WWF

World Champion:
SHAWN MICHAELS
(C) 234, San Antonio, TX

1. **GOLDUST** *(1) 254, Austin, TX*
2. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** *(4) 273, Scottsdale, AZ*
3. **THE UNDERTAKER** *(3) 328, parts unknown*
4. **STEVE AUSTIN** *(5) 241, Dallas, TX*
5. **DAVEY BOY SMITH** *(-) 245, Leeds, England*
6. **BIG VAN VADER** *(6) 450, Denver, CO*
7. **SAVIO VEGA** *(9) 260, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico*
8. **AHMED JOHNSON** *(7) 255, Pearl River, MS*
9. **DIESEL** *(8) 356, Las Vegas, NV*
10. **MANKIND** *(-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM*

USWA

USWA Champion:
JEFF JARRETT
(-) 230, Nashville, TN

1. **MABEL** *(1) 568, Harlem, NY*
2. **JERRY LAWLER** *(C) 234, Memphis, TN*
3. **BIG VAN VADER** *(-) 450, Denver, CO*
4. **BRIAN CHRISTOPHER** *(2) 230, Memphis, TN*
5. **CYBERPUNK FIRE** *(-) 221, parts unknown*
6. **REGGIE B. FINE** *(-) 215, Memphis, TN*
7. **JESSE JAMES ARMSTRONG** *(5) 240, Marietta, GA*
8. **BILL DUNDEE** *(3) 219, Melbourne, Australia*
9. **MO** *(4) 285, Harlem, NY*
10. **TOMMY RICH** *(8) 248, Hendersonville, TN*

ECW

ECW Champion:
RAVEN
(C) 235, Short Hills, NJ

1. **2 COLD SCORPIO** *(1) 222, Denver, CO*
2. **SHANE DOUGLAS** *(2) 223, Pittsburgh, PA*
3. **SABU** *(4) 220, Bombay*
4. **TOMMY DREAMER** *(5) 245, Yonkers, NY*
5. **TAZ** *(6) 221, Red Hook, NY*
6. **THE SANDMAN** *(3) 244, Philadelphia, PA*
7. **AXL ROTTEN** *(9) 302, Philadelphia, PA*
8. **ROB VAN DAM** *(-) 227, Battle Creek, MI*
9. **BRIAN LEE** *(-) 251, Los Angeles, CA*
10. **MIKEY WHIPWRECK** *(10) 187, New York, NY*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended May 2, 1996

MOST POPULAR

1	**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** *273, Scottsdale, AZ* **Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular**
2	**STING** *260, Venice Beach, CA* **Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular**
3	**SHAWN MICHAELS** *234, San Antonio, TX* **Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular**
4	**THE UNDERTAKER** *328, parts unknown* **Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular**
5	**HULK HOGAN** *275, Venice Beach, CA* **Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular**
6	**LEX LUGER** *265, Chicago, IL* **Last issue: unrated**
7	**SAVIO VEGA** *260, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico* **Last issue: unrated**
8	**AHMED JOHNSON** *255, Pearl River, MS* **Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular**
9	**RANDY SAVAGE** *237, Sarasota, FL* **Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular**
10	**EDDY GUERRERO** *221, Los Angeles, CA* **Last issue: unrated**

MOST HATED

1	**GOLDUST** *254, Austin, TX* **Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated**
2	**THE GIANT** *430, parts unknown* **Last issue: unrated**
3	**BIG VAN VADER** *450, Denver, CO* **Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated**
4	**DAVEY BOY SMITH** *245, Leeds, England* **Last issue: unrated**
5	**MANKIND** *277, Truth or Consequences, NM* **Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated**
6	**RIC FLAIR** *243, Minneapolis, MN* **Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated**
7	**STEVE AUSTIN** *241, Dallas, TX* **Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated**
8	**DIESEL** *356, Las Vegas, NV* **Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated**
9	**KEVIN SULLIVAN** *252, Boston, MA* **Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated**
10	**JERRY LAWLER** *234, Memphis, TN* **Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated**

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—BRET HART.....67 points
2—SHAWN MICHAELS.....56 points
3—HULK HOGAN.....54 points
4—THE UNDERTAKER.....52 points
5—DIESEL.....50 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS.....68 points
2—HARLEM HEAT.....61 points
3—LEX LUGER & STING.....47 points
4—SKIP & ZIP.....39 points
5—OWEN HART & YOKOZUNA.....35 points

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(4) 287, Gisu, Japan

1—NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(C) 231, Yokohama, Japan
2—GREAT SASUKE
(-) 212, Tokyo, Japan
3—JUSHIN LIGER
(2) 206, Hiroshima, Japan
4—THE GREAT MUTA
(1) 245, Tokyo, Japan
5—HAKUSHI
(-) 231, Tokyo, Japan
6—MASA CHONO
(10) 235, Tokyo, Japan
7—GENICHIRO TENRYU
(-) 235, Tokyo, Japan
8—HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(-) 270, Tokyo, Japan
9—RIKI CHOSHU
(-) 246, Yamaguchi, Japan
10—SHINJIRO OTANI
(3) 215, Yokohama, Japan

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
MITSUHARU MISAWA
(C) 228, Saitama, Japan

1—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(1) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
2—AKIRA TAUE
(2) 265, Tokyo, Japan
3—STEVE WILLIAMS
(-) 265, Norman, OK
4—JOHNNY ACE
(4) 250, San Bernadino, CA
5—KENTA KOBASHI
(5) 261, Tokyo, Japan
6—THE PATRIOT
(7) 251, Columbia, SC
7—STAN HANSEN
(3) 322, Borger, TX
8—GARY ALBRIGHT
(8) 343, Billings, MT
9—YOSHINARI OGAWA
(6) 202, Fichigi, Japan
10—DOUG FURNAS
(-) 243, Commerce, OK

AAA: AAA Champion—Konnan; **1**—Perro Aguayo; **2**—Juventud Guerrera; **3**—Rey Misterio Jr.; **4**—Psicosis; **5**—Octagon; **6**—La Parka; **7**—Eddy Guerrero; **8**—Pierroth Jr.; **9**—Cien Caras; **10**—Jerry Estrada.

ACW: ACW Champion—T. Rantula; **1**—Tito Santana; **2**—Rick Martel; **3**—Johnny Gunn; **4**—Virgil; **5**—Mr. Hughes; **6**—Frank Stalletto; **7**—Johnny Graham; **8**—Glen Osbourne; **9**—Lord Zoltan; **10**—Ubas.

MTW: MTW Champion—Title Vacant; **1**—Bruiser Bedlam; **2**—Rock Stevens; **3**—Machine Gun Kelly; **4**—D-Lo Brown; **5**—Chris Carter; **6**—J.T. Lightning; **7**—Brad Armstrong; **8**—Bobo Brazil Jr.; **9**—Ray Roberts; **10**—Johnny Paradise.

PCW: PCW Champion—Akita Kaos; **1**—Ray Odyssey; **2**—Jimmy Deo; **3**—D-Lo Brown; **4**—Doink the Clown; **5**—Reckless Youth; **6**—Bob Backlund; **7**—Nikolai Volkoff; **8**—Mark Mest; **9**—Maxx Crimson; **10**—Johnny Graham.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; **1**—Lenny Lane; **2**—Kamikaze Kid; **3**—J.B. Trask; **4**—Horace the Psychopath; **5**—Dan Jesser; **6**—Blacktop Bully; **7**—Nailz; **8**—The Mangler; **9**—The Nightstalker; **10**—Kenny Jay.

PWF: PWF Champion—George South; **1**—Italian Stallion; **2**—Chris Hamrick; **3**—Gladiator II; **4**—Star Ryder; **5**—Flaming Youth; **6**—Austin Steele; **7**—Terry Austin; **8**—Russian Assassin II; **9**—Tyrone Knox; **10**—Cruel Connection II.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

He's gone ... for now! Just when it seemed **Yokozuna** was getting ready to make another strong run at either the WWF World or Intercontinental title, he runs into **Big Van Vader**. Or maybe we should say Vader ran into him. It happened just about 24 hours after WrestleMania XII, during a taping of *WWF Monday Night Raw*. Vader met Yokozuna in a one-on-one match for the first time and apparently wasn't that concerned with pinning him.

Yokozuna

Just a few minutes into the match, Vader executed a reverse splash from the second rope and landed squarely on Yoko's left leg. The referee, sensing Yoko had suffered a serious injury, called for the bell and awarded the match to Vader. But Vader wasn't done. He continued to attack the leg for several more minutes and later, while attendants were loading Yoko into an ambulance, smashed the injured leg with a chair.

WWF officials said they expected Yoko to be out of action for close to two months, and thus he has disappeared from our ratings. That's too bad, because he had been wrestling as well as he had during his second WWF title reign. You can be sure Vader will have to deal with Yokozuna again at some point.

Does this attack give Vader the dubious distinction of being the most hated man in the WWF ... and perhaps all of wrestling right now? You could probably make an argument that he is just that, but we still feel **Goldust** is infuriating fans more. Some of his actions are just so controversial—and in many cases, lewd—that we feel we have to give him the nod for this month.

Giant confusion. We're probably just as confused as you are. **The Giant** storms into WCW in the summer of 1995 saying he would be picking up where **Andre the Giant** left off a few years ago in the WWF and would be the man to destroy **Hulk Hogan**. Even with **Kevin Sullivan's** help, he was unable to do that. Then he and Sullivan began having problems. He apparently severed his ties with Sullivan when he thought Sullivan had cost him an opportunity to win the WCW World title from **Ric Flair** in March.

The fans cheered as he choke-slammed Sullivan and left the ring on his own.

Just seven days later, The Giant was slated to team with **Sting** against **Harlem Heat**, but **Jimmy Hart** got to him first and convinced to go after Sting instead. Then he tried teaming with Flair against Sting and **Lex Luger**, but that didn't work, and he ended beating Flair for the World title later the same night. But even though he hates Flair now, he's still not a true fan favorite.

Sting

The best way to sum up this situation, we think, is to say The Giant is confused. He doesn't know who he should listen to or whose side he is on. He probably doesn't know if trying to befriend Hogan and his pals is the best way for him to go. Would they trust him enough to welcome him into their camp?

For now, we're assuming The Giant is going to remain a rulebreaker for the time being and continue being advised by Hart. Therefore we are going to keep the new WCW World champion in the Most Hated rankings for this issue.

Jeff's back. Once again, **Jeff Jarrett** has returned to our ratings, this time after taking two months off to allow a back injury he suffered in a match with **Ahmed Johnson** heal. "Double-J" beat **Jerry Lawler** for the USWA heavyweight title in only his second match back and has thus earned a spot in our overall top 10, but the more important news in regards to our ratings is that Jarrett is back on our Most Hated list.

What's remarkable about that is that he did so before he even went back to the WWF. That's right, "Double-J" is no longer a popular man in the USWA. He rolled Lawler up from behind while Lawler was tending to referee **Frank Morell**, who was complaining of chest pains. He also didn't speak so highly of "The King" after the bout. At press time, he was reportedly considering signing a deal with new rulebreaking manager **Miss Patricia** in the USWA. It will be interesting to see if this affects the Lawler-Jarrett relationship in the WWF.

If you have any comments regarding our ratings or this column, we want to hear them. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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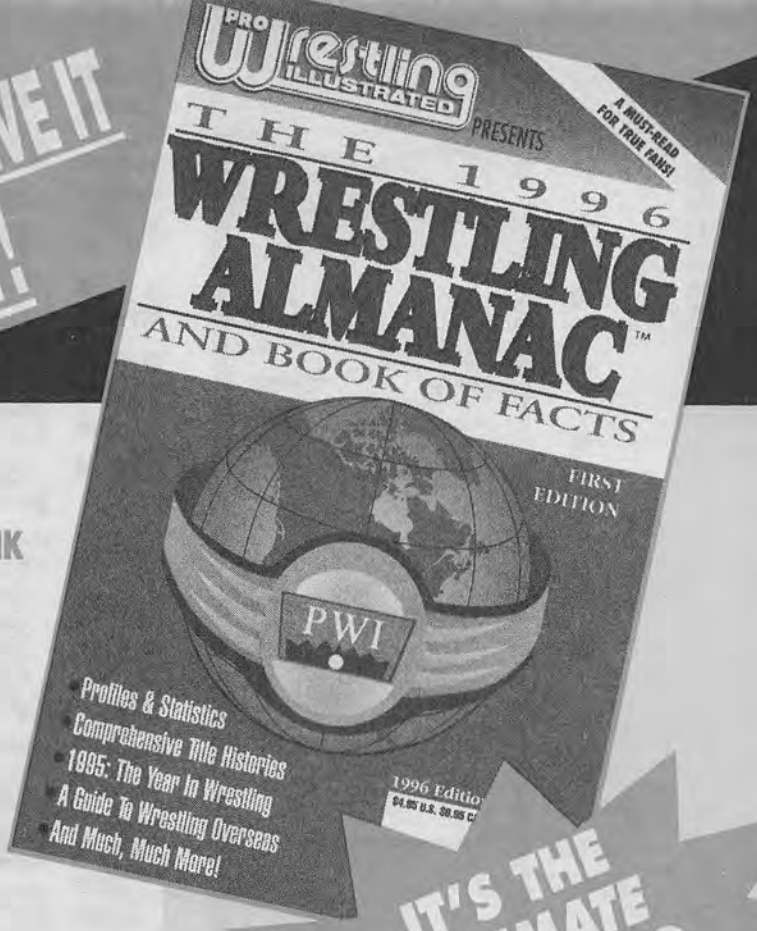

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VOLUME XVII, No. 9 SEPTEMBER 1996

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

VADER UNHAPPY WITH WWF WORLD TITLE SHOT

Cornette Says He'll Need Several To Overcome Bias

Big Van Vader is an angry man, and so is his manager, Jim Cornette. Cornette thinks WWF President Gorilla Monsoon is going out of his way to deny Vader a series of title shots.

By **ANDY RODRIGUEZ**

STAMFORD, CT—It seems as if Jim Cornette can't be happy unless he has something to complain about in the WWF. First, he complains that WWF President Gorilla Monsoon won't give his charge, Big Van Vader, a World title shot. Then, when Monsoon relents to the title shot, Cornette says it's not enough.

"There's no way that Vader could ever get a fair shake in one title match," Cornette told *Enquirer*. "It would be too easy for Monsoon to stack the deck against him for one match. Give Vader a few shots, though, and I'll be able to figure out ahead of time anything the WWF would be able to come up with."

Cornette would not be specific about what he believed the WWF could do to prevent Vader from getting a fair chance to win the belt. But he is not comfortable with the fact that Monsoon holds a grudge against his wrestler.

"Just because of that little run-in Vader had with Monsoon a while ago, the big buffoon is deliberately trying to destroy his career," he said.

The run-in Cornette mentioned took place January 22. After pinning Savio Vega, Vader attacked two referees who tried to restrain him. Then Monsoon hit the ring. When Vader threatened him, Monsoon hit him with some chops to the chest. But after Monsoon turned his back, Vader attacked *him*. He was suspended for this, but the suspension was lifted when Clarence Mason, Cornette's attorney, convinced the WWF that Vader was responding to Monsoon's attack.

"Monsoon may have been one of the toughest men who ever wrestled," said Cornette. "He wasn't afraid of any man who ever stepped into that ring with him. But Clarence Mason sends a chill up his spine. If I have to, I'll call him."

Savage Facing Possible Fine, Suspension

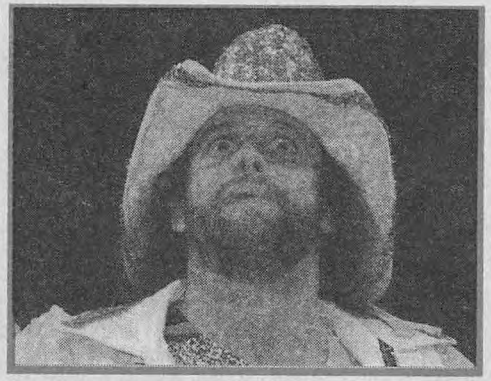
By LIZ HUNTER

ALBANY, GA—Randy Savage's obsession with destroying Ric Flair might soon cost him dearly, say several members of the WCW Board of Directors.

The "Macho Man" just cannot stand seeing Elizabeth on the arm of Flair and is willing to do almost anything at any time to get his hands on him. Savage became even more enraged when Elizabeth began throwing dollar bills into the crowd almost every time she came to the ring with Flair. She claimed it was some of the money she got from Savage in their divorce settlement.

"This behavior must stop," said Rob Garner, a WCW vice president. "Mr. Savage is attacking Mr. Flair before matches, he's trying to get to him in the aisle as Mr. Flair goes to the ring, and he's taking out his frustrations on other wrestlers. If it continues, we will have to consider fining him, suspending him, or both."

Savage had to be led away from the ring in handcuffs by security guards after he refused to stop attacking Bobby Eaton after a match.



Randy Savage is out of control in his feud with Ric Flair. WCW officials say if he doesn't control himself, he could be fined or suspended.

Taz: "Sabu Fears Me!"

By DAVE LENKER

PHILADELPHIA—Three years ago, Sabu dominated a series of violent ECW matches with Taz, but that, says Taz, was like a lifetime ago. The suplex master claims he is different wrestler now and that he is hungering for a chance to test himself against Sabu again.

"Back then, I wasn't the man that I am today," Taz said. "I've mastered more suplexes, I got hungrier, and I made myself more dangerous. Sabu's time has passed. He fears me! I can see it when he wrestles. He knows I'm watching him, and he wants nothing to do with me!"

Taz and Sabu were briefly co-holders of the ECW tag team title in February of 1995, but Taz was very upset when manager Paul E. Dangerously invited Sabu back to ECW shortly after Sabu's brief tenure in WCW ended late last year.

"I have an open contract," said Taz. "I'll wrestle him anywhere at any time!"

"Everyone wants to face me," Sabu responded through his interpreter. "And I fear no one, especially not Taz."

A New Moondog Appears In USWA

By BRANDI MANKIEWICZ

MEMPHIS—Since Mabel and Mo enlisted the help of Reggie B. Fine (now Sir Fine) in their USWA feud with Brian Christopher and Jesse James Armstrong, Christopher and Armstrong figured they needed to find some way to even the sides. They did it by recruiting the help of a new Moondog—Rover.

Christopher said this new Moondog is every bit as tough as his predecessors.

"I've done some teaming with Spot these last few months," Christopher said, "and he's real tough, but this Rover ... let's just say he hasn't had any of his shots in a long time."

"His bite is much worse than his bark," added Armstrong.

Rover and Spot showed they are two tough canines when they defeated Mabel and Mo on an USWA card. "A fluke," said Mabel. "They're just two low-down dogs, and we're gonna treat 'em that way now!"

AROUND THE GLOBE

TOKYO, JAPAN

All the rumors about the Steve Williams-Stan Hansen feud heating up again are true. The two former friends recently wrestled to 30-minute time-limit draw and are both hoping to get shots at Triple Crown champ Mitsuharu Misawa in the very near future. There are also rumors going around that both are eager to bring their feud back to the U.S. this summer.

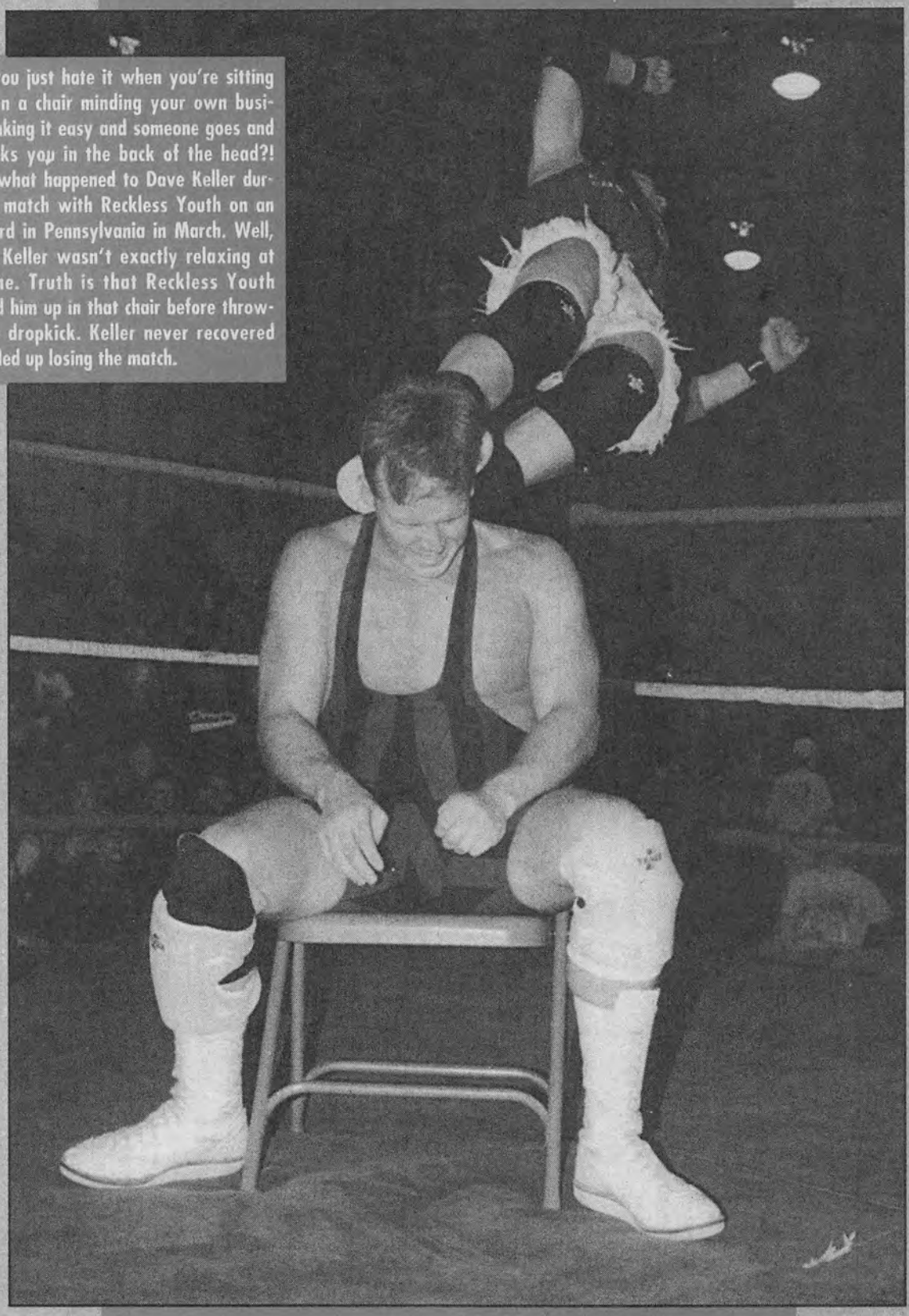
KASSEL, GERMANY

Who said the Bret Hart-Owen Hart feud was dying down? Not the fans who saw them clash several times on the WWF's German tour in April! Bret may have still been bitter about losing the WWF title to Shawn Michaels, but that didn't stop him from tearing into his brother. And just like the last time they met in the States, Owen was unable to defeat his brother.

MARUKO, JAPAN

Cactus Jack isn't quite dead yet. Just a week after he started a feud with The Undertaker in the WWF, where he wrestles as Mankind, he returned to Japan to team with his friends Takashi Okano, Leatherface, and Keisuke Yamada. Jack did fairly well in tag team competition, but he was unsuccessful in his bid to win Goto's IWA title.

HOT SHOT



Don't you just hate it when you're sitting there on a chair minding your own business, taking it easy and someone goes and dropkicks you in the back of the head?! That's what happened to Dave Keller during his match with Reckless Youth on an IPW card in Pennsylvania in March. Well, maybe Keller wasn't exactly relaxing at the time. Truth is that Reckless Youth propped him up in that chair before throwing the dropkick. Keller never recovered and ended up losing the match.

Photo by Timothy A. Walker

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